

Iraq says infant mortality has tripled, urges Arabs to seek an end to sanctions

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraq said Wednesday its national infant mortality rate had tripled and malnutrition was rampant in the country since the imposition of international sanctions against it in 1990, and called for an urgent lifting of the U.N.-imposed measure.

"The Iraqi people are suffering from severe shortages of essential foodstuffs, baby milk, vitamins and drugs, including medicine for children and intensive care supplies and equipment," Iraqi Planning Minister Samir Majid Faraj told an Arab population conference here.

"Mortality rates, particularly among mothers and children, have significantly gone up because of the hardships imposed by the sanctions," the minister said.

Food and medicine are exempt from the sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council, but the oil-rich country is hampered from exports — its mainstay means for raising revenue to meet the needs of its people.

According to the minister, who headed the country's delegation to the conference that

is drafting a major "declaration" on issues related to Arab population, the infant mortality rate in Iraq has gone up to 92.5 per 1,000 live births compared with 29.5 per cent before the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Faraj did not give any figures on the number of deaths directly attributed to the sanctions. International experts and U.N. officials estimate that over 100,000 children under the age of five died in the country from preventable causes since the imposition of the embargo.

"We hope that the hardships that the Iraqi people are undergoing will motivate you to stand by them and call for an immediate lifting of the sanctions," Mr. Faraj told the conference.

He noted that Iraq had a record of self-reliance and development-oriented economic policies since 1968, but the entire infrastructure and programme it developed since then were on the verge of total destruction by the continuing sanctions.

The minister also noted that Iraq had a record of abiding by regional and international decisions and recommendations vis-a-vis population issues and had developed its own strategy

for a balanced exploitation of the natural wealth of Iraq, which also has a rich agricultural base.

In separate comments to the Jordan Times, the Iraqi minister said there were no new developments in the stalemate between the U.N. and Iraq over Baghdad's refusal to sell oil worth \$1.6 billion under U.N. supervision to raise funds.

"There is no shift in our position," Mr. Faraj said.

The U.N., finding its resources under strain in implementing the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire, proposed in 1991 that Baghdad be allowed a one-time sale of \$1.6 billion in oil to raise funds which will be used to pay war reparations and U.N. costs and procure food and medicine for Iraq under U.N. control.

Baghdad says that the U.N. proposal was tantamount to a violation of Iraq's sovereignty and infringed on its market freedom.

Sources at the Amman conference said Iraq was planning to seek a resolution calling for an end to the sanctions, but the move was not expected to be endorsed by the Gulf states attending the meeting.



UNDER SIEGE: A wheelchair-bound Palestinian from Tulkarem and his family Wednesday show their papers at an Israeli army roadblock outside Jerusalem. They were turned back, lacking an "entry" permit. The occupied West Bank has been closed off for eight days, the occupied Gaza Strip for 11 (AFP photo)

Hardline preacher assails Mubarak

JERSEY CITY, New Jersey (R) — Fundamentalist Islamic cleric Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman Tuesday attacked Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as a destroyer of democracy and repeated his claim of innocence in the bombing of New York's World Trade Centre.

Speaking to reporters at his New Jersey apartment, Sheikh Abdul Rahman also strongly criticised the Clinton administration for inviting Mr. Mubarak to visit the United States.

The Egyptian leader, who met President Bill Clinton Tuesday, has said that Egypt warned U.S. officials about a rise in fundamentalist activities in the United States.

Muslim fundamentalists in Egypt who see Sheikh Abdul Rahman as their spiritual leader are waging a violent campaign aimed at bringing down the Egyptian government. They have bombed tourist buses and hit other targets in hopes of disrupting tourism.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman has defended those attacks. But he has repeatedly denied any involvement in the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre in Manhattan that killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

"I condemn the bombing of the World Trade Centre and I'm here to say I do not condone this kind of violence," he told more than 100 reporters in his living room.

Five of his New Jersey followers are under arrest in connection with the bombing. A sixth person is being sought by authorities who believe he has fled the country, possibly to Egypt.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman devoted most of his news conference to a long statement attacking Mr. Mubarak.

"He destroyed democracy in Egypt and he has become like a king sitting on an Egyptian throne. It is a mistake to call him President Mubarak," the cleric said through a translator.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman also said Mr. Mubarak is interfering with the U.S. judicial system by suggesting he knows some of the secrets of the bombing.

"How can he interfere in an issue that is before the courts and how can he convict people before they are tried in a court of law?" he asked.

The cleric took few questions from reporters.

He made no reference to the fact that a trial against him opened in Egypt Tuesday.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman has been charged, along with 48 others, of attempting to kill two police officers and incite violence during a protest outside a mosque in 1989.

Facing deportation from the United States, he said he is ready to return to Egypt, where he believes he would be imprisoned.

But according to the Immigration and Naturalisation Service, he would be sent back to Sudan, the country from which he came to the United States.

U.N. appeals for funds to help starving Sudanese

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations, saying it had inadequate funds to support relief work, warned Wednesday that hundreds of thousands of people could starve to death in Sudan's war-torn south due to international neglect.

"While there is competition for emergency relief funds in many parts of the world, we believe that the needs for emergency assistance in southern Sudan should have the highest priority because nowhere else in the world are people in such dire straits," the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) said in a statement.

The WFP, the U.N.'s food arm, said it needed \$1.3 billion for relief work in the southern Sudan but only \$14.9 million had been raised.

"The situation in some parts of Sudan is absolutely bleak with starvation rampant in the south," it said.

"We have the ability to reach millions who are at risk and urgently appeal to the international community to provide us with the resources we need to stop starvation on a massive scale."

The statement said 2.8 million people were immediately at risk and could starve to death unless relief supplies reached them. Up to 1.7 million have been displaced by war, and drought has hit 1.1 million.

Relief workers returning to Kenya from Sudan described the situation there as "awful and depressing."

"They said the tragedy unfolding in Sudan would be of similar dimensions to that of Somalia, with hundreds of thousands of people threatened by famine."

A civil war has been raging in the huge African country for 10 years between the mainly Christian and animist south and the Muslim, Arabised north, which controls the government.

Relief workers estimate 500,000 people have died — mainly civilians in famine — since the war started in 1983 and some 4.5 million southerners have been driven from their homes, most of

them into neighbouring Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia.

But unlike disasters in Somalia and Ethiopia in the last decade, Sudan has attracted little international attention.

The WFP said it needed 324,000 tonnes of food stocks for 1993. It added that to date no funds have been received to pay for staff or administrative costs to run the Sudan operations.

"Food shortages are at a crisis point with cases of death from starvation reported and malnutrition rates among the highest in the world," the WFP said.

It has approved a \$45 million emergency operation to provide 41,000 tonnes of sorghum, but said it could not begin the operation until it receives donations.

Relief workers say the situation in southern Sudan had been made worse by fighting between different factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The SPLA first split into factions in 1991 when senior aides to guerrilla chief John Garang left after accusing him of human rights violations and dictatorship.

On Monday, three of the factions — Nasir, Nyuon and Kwanyin — said they had reunited and immediately declared a ceasefire in one of Africa's longest-running civil wars.

The rebels are due to resume peace talks with their government opponents in the Nigerian capital Abuja in June.

Delegation talks with Garang

A Sudanese government delegation is in Nigeria for preliminary talks with Colonel Garang to help end one of Africa's longest-running civil wars, a senior Sudanese diplomat said Wednesday.

"The talks will be for two to three days. They are preliminary talks," Sudan's ambassador to Lagos, Ahmad Al Tijani Salih, told Reuters from the Nigerian capital, Abuja.

Col. Garang had private talks Monday with Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, who is brokering the peace effort.

Pakistan arrests 12 suspected Arab fighters

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Pakistan arrested 14 Arabs in the north west frontier city of Peshawar Tuesday as part of a sweep against suspected guerrillas, Arab sources and police said.

Islamabad seeks to clear its name after the United States in January added Pakistan to a watch list of countries allegedly sponsoring "terrorism."

Police arrested 14 Arabs, including one Palestinian, in a suburb of Peshawar on the road to the Khyber pass that in turn leads to Afghanistan, the Arab sources said. The nationalities of the other Arabs were not known.

Nine suspected Libyan guerrillas, most of them heavily armed, have already been detained in Peshawar, police say.

The frontier province home (interior) department issued orders for the arrest of any foreigners found in the tribal areas, which do not come directly under Pakistani jurisdiction.

Political agents who supervise the border zones were ordered to arrest foreigners travelling in these tribal sanctuaries along Pakistan's porous border with Afghanistan.

Interior Minister Shujaat Hussain said last week the government would decide within a month whether to expel Arabs in Pakistan, extradite them or allow them to remain.

Several Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Sudan have voiced concern that Muslim militants operating in those countries had fought in the 14-year Afghan war and were obtaining arms and training in Peshawar.

"We want these terrorists as much as the west does," Mr. Hussain said late Tuesday. "We are not involved in these things."

Most of the Arabs came to Pakistan to fight in the 14-year Afghan war against the former Kabul government.

About 2,800 Arabs are registered in the North West Frontier Province.

Iranians face trouble in Turkey

By Metin Demirkan
Reuters

ISTANBUL — Iranians sit in an Istanbul clothes shop swapping tales about the impact on their lives of rising tensions between secular Turkey and fundamentalist Iran.

"A cab-driver ordered me out of a taxi recently when he learned I was an Iranian. He said Turkey was no place for Iranians," said Ismail Yektia, a clean-shaven university student.

"The Turkish press has not been writing good things about Iran and Iranians. Turks are looking at us as if we were all terrorists," Mehmed Abedini, a textile trader from Tehran, complained.

Turkey's big Iranian community has been facing tougher times since Ankara last month accused Iranian-trained Islamic radicals of committing at least three political murders in Turkey.

Iran, in turn, has accused Turkey of sheltering supporters of the late Shah and opponents of the Islamic republic.

Turkish security officials have long kept track of Iranians they say are involved in extensive networks of organised crime.

"They are involved in every kind of crime from preparing forged passports to drug trafficking and prostitution," Salih Gungor, head of the anti-smuggling division of the Istanbul Police Department, told Reuters.

Pressure is mounting in Turkey for closer monitoring of an Iranian community thought to num-

ber at least one million.

"Police are worried about the large numbers of undocumented Iranians because they pose a potential for crime," Mr. Gungor said.

"We have to bring them under control," Ismail Kose, a member of parliament of Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's True Path Party, told Cumhuriyet newspaper last month.

No one really knows how many Iranians are in Turkey because they do not need visas to enter the country.

Turkish police say 14,000 Iranians reside here legally, but say up to one million others work in Turkey without residence permits, about a third of them in Istanbul.

The Mujahideen-e-Khalq, a Paris-based Iranian opposition group, puts the number at around two million.

Turkey is a key transit point for Iranians travelling to the United States and Europe — 230,000 crossed its borders last year alone, immigration officials said.

Former President Kenan Evren, who led the 1980 military coup, has said Turkey should impose visa requirements to help sever links between Iranian and Turkish fundamentalists.

Turkey said last month that members of the Islamic Action Group, charged with murders of two secular Turkish journalists and an Iranian dissident, had been trained in Iran.

Officials also fear that the Iranian government and its foes are fighting out their quarrels on Turkish territory.

The Mujahideen-e-Khalq says that agents sent by Tehran have assassinated 50 Iranian dissidents in Turkey. Police say they know of at least a dozen such murders since 1980.

Most of the Iranians concentrated in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir are ethnic Azeris, who speak a Turkish dialect, but the community also includes Persians, Kurds and Armenians.

Iranians run restaurants and hotels, own carpet and clothing shops, or study at Turkish universities. About 200 Iranian trading companies are registered in Turkey, officials say.

After the 1979 Islamic revolution, hundreds of thousands of Iranians took refuge in Turkey because they were identified with the Shah's regime or disliked its theocratic replacement.

Many still live in Istanbul, congregating in the seedy, but thriving business and hotel districts of Laleli and Aksaray, which have come to be known as Little Iran and New Tehran.

"At one time, Iranians outnumbered Turks in this district three to one," a Turkish clerk in Laleli said.

Many of the Iranians have no political leanings.

"I am an Iranian citizen, but neither a fundamentalist nor a supporter of the Shah," said Mr. Abedini, the textile merchant.

He fled to Turkey with his wife and five children after Iraqi planes bombed his Tehran neighbourhood at the height of the Iran-Iraq war in the mid-1980s.

"If we had been comfortable in Iran, we would have stayed," Mr. Abedini said.

U.N. to warn Libya of tougher measures

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council is expected to continue without change the sanctions it imposed against Libya a year ago, but it will warn Thursday that continued non-compliance with its demands could lead to tougher measures, council sources said Tuesday.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, at a joint news conference in Washington with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Tuesday, warned of tougher sanctions against Libya, but did not offer any specifics.

Mr. Clinton said: "It's inevitable that we will press for tougher sanctions if the government of Libya does not release the people that have been charged" for involvement in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The mandatory sanctions, involving an arms and aviation embargo and downgrading of diplomatic ties, were imposed after Libya failed to surrender for trial two men indicted in Britain and the United States for involvement in the bombing over Lockerbie, in which 270 people died.

Libya has also failed to cooperate fully with a French inquiry into the mid-air bombing of UTA Flight 772 over Niger in 1989 in which all 171 people aboard were killed.

Council sources said the existing sanctions were expected to remain unchanged when they come up for review Thursday.

But a statement to be issued after the review would also hold out the threat of additional punitive measures if Libya persisted in refusing to comply with the council's demands. The statement was not expected to include a specific deadline.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told a Senate committee in Washington last week that "the time has come to stiffen the embargo against Libya."

He raised the possibility of an oil embargo but the State Department later softened this, saying it might ask for a ban on the sale of oil technology and equipment.

Several European Community (EC) countries import Libyan oil. Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid came to the United Nations this week to lobby against any stiffening of the sanctions.

"Our main objective is to avoid an escalation of the sanctions, for the time being," he told Reuters Tuesday, referring to the forthcoming review.

Under last year's resolution, the council conducts a review every 120 days, but may do so sooner "should the situation so require."

After a joint meeting Tuesday with the U.N. representatives of the United States, Britain and France, and a separate meeting with Russia's U.N. envoy, the Arab League chief declined to say how the ambassadors had reacted. They also offered no substantive comment.

Dr. Abdul Meguid, a former foreign minister of Egypt and once its U.N. ambassador, said he will have conferred with all 15 council members before leaving Thursday to return to Cairo.

The sanctions resolution, adopted on March 31, 1992, went into effect on April 15, allowing Libya a two-week grace period. The resolution required all countries to:

— Cut air links with Libya, except those based on approved humanitarian needs, prohibit the supply of aircraft parts or servicing of Libyan aircraft, prohibit the provision of arms or arms-related material, advice or assistance reduce significantly the number and level of Libyan diplomatic representation in their territory, prevent the operation of all Libyan Arab airlines offices and deny entry to Libyan nationals expelled from other states because of involvement in "terrorist" activities.

The vote on the resolution was 10 in favour and none against, with five abstentions — an unusually large number. A council resolution requires at least nine votes, and no vetoes, to win adoption.

Montazeri's office said linked to armed gang

TEHRAN (R) — A court official has linked the office of Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, once the designated successor to the late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, to an underground, armed anti-Khomeini group, a newspaper reported.

The weekly Kayhan Havaei also accused Salam newspaper, published by a hardline clerical group, of trying to bring Ayatollah Montazeri back into the mainstream from the political wilderness. Ayatollah Khomeini consigned him to before his death in 1989.

The latest controversy started with a speech Ayatollah Montazeri, 71, made in his theology class in the holy city of Qom on Feb. 10, criticising Iran's Islamic rulers.

Ayatollah Montazeri's son Ahmad, in a letter to Salam newspaper last month, said demonstrators and security agents attacked and ransacked Ayatollah Montazeri's office three days after the speech.

Kayhan Havaei quoted an official of the special court of events, saying the court had ordered a search of the house of Ayatollah Montazeri's son-in-law Hadi Hashemi and several others which uncovered "five pickup-trucksloads of leaflets insulting the imam (Khomeini)."

Hashemi's brother Mehdi, a former Revolutionary Guard official, was convicted of murder and sabotage and executed in 1987. Several of his colleagues were executed in 1987 and later. Judicial officials say others are still

active.

The court official, identified only as Hosseinian, told Kayhan Havaei the court was led to the house of the Montazeri aides after police arrested five or six Hashemi followers who gathered arms and distributed anti-Khomeini leaflets in Tehran.

"Under interrogation they confessed that these activities were carried out in coordination with Mr. Montazeri's office and Hadi Hashemi, and that the leaflets were produced in Hashemi's house and several other houses," he was quoted as saying.

Hosseinian said the contents of the leaflets and other documents seized in the search would be made public.

He said Ayatollah Montazeri's house was not searched and a warrant had been shown to Ahmad Montazeri before searching the ayatollah's office.

Ahmad Montazeri said in his letter that more than 1,000 agents took part in the raid on his father's office, breaking down doors and showing no search warrants.

He also accused the official news agency IRNA of lying when it published what it said was an interview with Ayatollah Montazeri four days later, saying only he had talked to the IRNA reporter.

Ayatollah Montazeri was a student of Ayatollah Khomeini and a staunch supporter of his 1979 Islamic revolution, but fell out with the leader over his links with Hashemi and criticism of political prisoners and other government actions.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 771111

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	Pat et Hercule
17:45	Les Magasins
18:15	L'ecole de l'an
18:45	News in French
19:15	Interpreting
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Zorro
21:10	Quantum Leap
22:00	News in English

Music of the Week "The Rose and the Jack"

PRAYER TIMES

04:52	Fajr
10:12	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:30	Dhuhr
12:30	'Asr
19:04	Maghrib
20:23	'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625491

617440.

Deir in Salla Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623600
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Agaba Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Barbara Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 628324 and 624932
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and relatively cold and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain, especially in the northern parts of Jordan. Wind will be southwesterly moderate, freshening at times. In Agaba, wind will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 6/17

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Agaba 11/25
Deir 11/25
Jordan Valley 10/23

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Agaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Agaba 37 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mahmud Al Abdullahi 779599
Dr. Yahya Abdul Razon 770672
Dr. Mahmud Al Hindi 776787
Dr. Abdul Aziz Tahoun 620881
Firo pharmacy 661912
Fendous pharmacy 770336
Al Asma pharmacy 627055
Naiwakh pharmacy 623672
Al Sultan pharmacy 626700
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shinacal pharmacy 637660
Najih pharmacy 347632

JEREB:
Dr. Ahmad Qusu 611011
Jordan Television 771111

Al Ouds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Hisham Hiyat (—)
Khalif pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 680100
Rescue Police No. 102, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 846390
Public Security Department 630231
Hotel Complaints 605850
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Aman Municipality 771010
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111

Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 690100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200,
Queen Alia Intl. Airport. 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 818153/52
Khald Maternity, J. Amn. 644201
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 64244/2
Jahat Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 664171/4
Simasani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 643445
Al-Musader Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mohajreen 771010
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/45
Amal Hospital 674155
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09/900660
El-Sina Hospital 625220

Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09/900930
IRBID:
Princess Sumra Hospital 02/275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02/27275
El-Nafes Hospital 02/247100
AQABA:
Princess Hayat Hospital 03/314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)352005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
06:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:45 Sanaa (RJ)
09:45 New Delhi (RJ)
18:15 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
18:30 Riyadh (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
11:15 Beirut (RJ)
11:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

19:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:15 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
20:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
20:45 Athens, Larnaca (RJ)
21:10 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Riyadh (SU)
15:55 Rome (AZ)
18:00 Dubai (EM)
21:00 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Rome (RJ)
12:00 Paris (RJ)
12:05 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:15 Larnaca, Athens (RJ)
13:00 Agaba, Paris (RJ)
13:15 London (RJ)
21:20 Jeddah (RJ)
21:20 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:45 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:05 Damascus, Paris (AF)
07:05 Larnaca (CY)

09:15 Beirut (ME)
12:15 Larnaca, Vienna (OS)
16:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:30 Riyadh (RJ)
16:55 Damascus (AZ)
19:00 Damascus, Dubai (EM)
21:50 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in fils per kg.

Apples	600 / 680
Bananas	620 / 620
Banana (Mulkammar)	90 / 700
Beans	180 / 120
Cabbages	160 / 160
Carrots	120 / 140
Cauliflower	220 / 160
Cucumbers (large)	300 / 260
Cucumbers (small)	240 / 180
Eggplant	200 / 150
Garlic	240 / 180
Green peas	240 / 180
Grapefruit	400 / 300
Lebanese	200 / 150
Lemon	240 / 180
Marrow (large)	200 / 150
Marrow (small)	200 / 150
Mint	300 / 260
Onion (dry)	320 / 260
Onion (green)	240 / 180
Orange	470/200
Pepper (hot)	700 / 600
Pepper (sweet)	260 / 200
Potato	280 / 190
Tomato	180 / 50
Spinach	180 / 50



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday meets with Tsheten Samdup, the representative of the Dalai Lama (Petra photo)

Crown Prince meets visiting religious representatives

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday received at the Royal Court the representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Geneva Metropolitan Damaskinos and the director of the Orthodox Centre in Switzerland.

Prince Hassan stressed the need to continue meetings to enhance inter-faith dialogue and to remove obstacles impeding international understanding among peoples and nations.

The bishop said he will contact

the Orthodox patriarch of Belgrade and Serbian religious institutions to convey the wishes of Prince Hassan and Muslims all over the world that a peace settlement will take place between Muslims and Christians in the former Yugoslav republics, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He also told Prince Hassan that he will invite two Serbian bishops to participate in the Islamic-Christian meeting which will be held in Amman soon under the patronage of Prince Hassan.

The conference is organized by

the Royal Academy for the Islamic Civilisation Researches in cooperation with the Orthodox Centre in Switzerland.

Prince Hassan also met Wednesday with Tsheten Samdup, the representative of the Dalai Lama. Mr. Samdup conveyed to Prince Hassan the greetings of the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists. Both visitors are in Amman to attend the meetings of the Round Table Conference human rights which was opened by His Royal Highness Monday.

Omani minister reviews NHF work

AMMAN (J.T.) — Omani Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Ahmed Ben Mohammed Al-Eisa Wednesday reviewed with Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) President In'am Mufli possible cooperation between NHF and Omani development institutions.

Both sides also discussed how the foundation's experience in integrated and comprehensive development could be utilized in Oman, especially in areas relating to rural communities, women, and traditional crafts development.

The discussion came as Sheikh Al Eisa, accompanied by Jordanian Minister of Social Develop-

ment Amin Awad Mashaqbeh, the Omani ambassador in Amman and several Omani officials, called at the foundation.

Sheikh Al-Eisa and the accompanying delegation watched a slide presentation on NHF development philosophy which stresses self-reliance, grassroots participation and the integration of women into the development process.

The Omani official expressed appreciation for the development achievements realized by several Jordanian institutions, including NHF, in the various fields.

The Omani minister and the accompanying delegation then toured the Jordan Design and

Trade Centre which operates within the NHF National Handicrafts Development Project.

The centre has extended technical, training, financial and marketing assistance to over 2,000 Jordanian crafts people throughout the Kingdom, thus contributing to the revival and development of the country's national heritage, and to the flow of steady income for needy families.

Sheikh Al Eisa and the accompanying delegation are in Jordan at the invitation of the Jordanian minister of social development, and to attend the Arab labour ministers' conference being held in Amman.

Jordan fights growing poverty conditions amidst economic boom

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

MADABA — In a country with a booming economy and a surging stock market, Fares Khawatrath lives in a mud and brick house with no door.

His children often go to bed hungry.

He is one of Jordan's growing army of poor officially estimated at 1,200,000 or about one-third of the Kingdom's population.

"This is not a human life," said Mr. Khawatrath, 39, standing in his tiny, darkened house that sees no sunlight because its windows are fitted with bricks.

Mr. Khawatrath earns 70 dinars a month as a messenger for the city of Madaba, south of Amman.

"When we have dinner one day, the next day we don't... the same goes for lunch," he said, tears welling in his eyes as he talked about his four children.

His neighbour Aminah Azaidah, a widow, said she wished she could sell her two gold-capped teeth to feed her eight children.

"I forgot when we last ate meat," said the woman.

Jordan boasted 11 per cent economic growth last year and its stock market's gains were among the highest in the world. But poverty has worsened in the past four years because of high unemployment, rapid population growth and a sharp fall in purchasing power.

Parliamentary Deputy Fawzi Touameh is worried by the

widening gap between rich and poor.

"The continuous deterioration of living standards of the fast eroding purchasing power of incomes is one of the major elements destabilising social security," he said.

Privately, officials say Muslim fundamentalism, so far contained in Jordan, is taking stronger root among the poor.

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) says malnutrition is rising among thousands of families who live on bread, tomatoes, lentils and onions.

"Poverty does not hit you in the face," said Nigel Fisher, UNICEF chief in Jordan. "It is masked in the sense that Jordan's slums are nothing like the slums of Africa or Bombay... people tend not to advertise their poverty."

But the government recognises the problem and the worrying spread of poverty from the countryside to the working urban poor.

"We have a poverty problem and we are trying, within our means, to push it back to acceptable limits," said Mohammad Squar, secretary general at the Social Development Ministry.

The government has a \$20-million plan to reduce rural poverty by giving soft loans over the next seven years to fund agricultural projects.

The growth of poverty became acute after a dinar crisis in mid-1988 forced Jordan to devalue its currency by over 50 per cent.

Most of the 300,000 low-paid civil servants — almost half the country's workforce — who support an average of six people each, were forced into a hand-to-mouth struggle for survival.

The Gulf war in 1991 accelerated the fall in living standards. More than 300,000 citizens returned from Kuwait because of the crisis, cutting off the flow of currency remittances.

The returnees brought a boom in construction and other key industries but they have also strained Jordan's infrastructure and services.

The Kingdom, which once offered its 3.8 million citizens a safety net of services funded by Arab Gulf aid, has seen that money gradually dry up and is being forced to become more self-reliant.

The trend is to lessen their (the poor's) dependence on cash give-aways and widen the sector of productive families," said Social Development Minister Amin Mashaqbeh, outlining state policies to fight poverty.

Tightly-knit traditional family and tribal links, government aid and relief from Jordan's 625 charities and a dozen foreign agencies all try to help ease the plight of the poor.

Some 23,000 families receive monthly payments of between 25 and 50 dinars (\$36 and \$72) from the social development ministry's \$19 million National Aid Fund.

The number of needy families receiving the aid has leapt from 18,000 families since 1992.

Experts seek clear Arab perspective on development, population policies

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab World needs a fresh and closer look at compatibility between development projects and human resources in its economic, social and educational policies if it is to successfully meet the challenges of the changing world, participants in an Arab conference on Arab population said Wednesday.

Addressing the conference, which began Sunday and concludes Thursday with a "Second Amman Declaration" on population issues, delegates emphasised the need for Arab governments to address the problems of urban/rural migration, health services, poverty, employment priorities and development-oriented economic policies.

Organised by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in cooperation with the Arab League, the conference heard that more attention should be paid to the individual and his/her needs in government programmes if the Arab World has to achieve a level of progress capable of facing the challenges of the 21st century.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, who opened Wednesday's meeting which marked ministerial-level deliberations of the conference, noted that the Arab World faces a host of problems, including internal migration leading to insufficient health, education and population services, as well as environmental problems. In addition, she said, are rising rates of poverty, unemployment and poor living conditions.

"Despite agricultural development plans in the Arab World, food shortages still persist, turning into one of the greatest chal-

lenges facing us," Princess Basma said. "Furthermore social justice, which has not been achieved so far is considered an important factor in dealing with population issues, since achieving economic growth becomes meaningless if it benefits only a small portion of the population."

"Dealing with population problems in the Arab World from narrow, country-specific perspectives is one of the most outstanding reasons which lead to the exacerbation of these problems," the Princess said, calling for "common grounds between country policies based on an Arab population strategy as part of an international population strategy."

"Solving world population problems requires common international efforts in order to achieve a sound population and clear environment in which the whole Arab society can live according to the principles of justice, freedom, security and peace," Princess Basma told the conference, attended by almost all members of the Arab League and dozens of international organisations, non-Arab League and dozens of international organisations, non-Arab countries and institutions as official delegations, as well as observers.

Nafis Sadik, executive director of UNFPA and secretary-general of the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in September 1994, told the conference that despite the variations in the economic, population and social conditions, the common cultural heritage bound the Arab states together and this offers "a firm basis for policies appropriate for a rapidly changing world."

The growing population and the need for resources to sustain it is one of the key issues where the Arab World seeks to achieve balance, she noted. "Key questions concern the distribution of

populations between rural and urban areas, the rate and direction of migration... the rate of population growth, trends in fertility and mortality, and the role and status of women," Dr. Sadik said.

The UNFPA chief noted that U.N. figures indicate that the Arab region's population growth was an average of 2.8 per cent registering 222 million in 1990, and expected to rise to 450 million by the year 2020.

While birth rates are declining and population densities are still low in the region, the rapid increase in population is of concern to many countries in the absence of a compatible level of social and economic development and the increasing demands on natural resources, she said.

Acknowledging that progress has been made in the health and education sectors in the Arab World, Dr. Sadik also noted that "further efforts are still needed to improve the status of women, to reduce maternal mortality and to increase the use of modern family planning methods."

Dr. Sadik recalled a conference held in Amman in 1984 produced the "First Amman Declaration" on population issues and it contained a strong emphasis on the "social dimension of development in building a solid foundation for economic growth."

"Human rights and human development go hand in hand," she said.

"Our aim should be to ensure that no one is forced into migration by poverty or environmental degradation, but that women and men alike have the choice of moving in search of a better life," Dr. Sadik said.

The "Second Amman Declaration" — due today — will be one of the key documents for the international conference in Cairo next year along with the decisions and resolutions of four other regional conferences on popula-

tion. "We are hoping that the document being discussed and approved here in the next two days will be strong and precise in its recommendations, giving a clear regional perspective, and at the same time, offering strategic suggestions for actions in the future," Dr. Sadik said.

"It should protect the rights of the individual, and the sovereign right of nations to determine their own policies. But it should also reflect our common goals and our unity as to the means of achieving them."

ESCWA Executive Secretary Sabah Bakjaji told the conference that the Arab World should be prepared to face the eventuality that it would have six per cent of the expected world population. The infant mortality rate in the Arab World is now estimated at 68 per 1,000 live births, and this is expected to be reduced to 50 per 1,000 at the turn of the century, he said.

According to Mr. Bakjaji, the population of the Arab World stood at 237 million — four per cent of the world population — and is expected to rise to 300 million in 2000 and would exceed 500 million — six per cent of the world population — in the year 2030.

"Initial estimates show that the woman's average fertility rate in the ESCWA region, which exceeded seven children in the 1960s, is starting to drop and is expected to go below three children by the year 2025," Mr. Bakjaji said.

He said ESCWA, which is closely involved in studies, research and development strategies in its member countries, stands ready to offer its expertise in advancing the Arab countries' quest to address problems related to population issues.

Dr. Abdul Mahdi Al Hadi, assistant secretary general of the

Arab League, delivered a strong speech, underlining the importance of addressing the Palestinian people's suffering.

"We are witnessing our waters being stolen, our property being pillaged, our people being killed and the human rights of our people being violated," said Mr. Hadi, a Sudanese national.

"We salute the children of stones, who are heroically resisting occupation and repression," he said, referring to the five-year-old Palestinian intifada.

"The intifada by all standards is a miracle of the modern age because children are the soldiers, fighting with stones with which they are confronting a barbaric army," he said. "We will keep this holy flame alive."

Mr. Hadi said the Arab World needs a closer look at itself and its priorities and common interests in view of the emerging "new world order."

"We cannot stand idly by and remain passive when the world is being formed into political and economic blocs," he said, calling on the Arab World to unite its ranks and "choose our position to defend our interests from a position of strength."

"The only way to do that is through Arab solidarity and brotherly cooperation," he added.

Regardless of the abundance of natural resources in some Arab countries, he said, "the Arab people represent true wealth, only through its people can the Arab World achieve real progress and development."

On another front, Mr. Hadi said Arab migrants in Europe needed particular protection since the policies of some European countries were discrimina-

tory. The migrants, he said, "have a right to decent life, the preservation of their cultural identity and to a secure life."

Parliamentarians to attend conference in New Delhi

AMMAN (Petra) — A Parliamentary delegation headed by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat will leave Amman for New Delhi Friday to participate in the meetings of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) which will open there April 12. Dr. Arabiyat will deliver an address at the eight-day conference on the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas. Also Secretary General of the Parliament Saleh Al Zubi will participate in the meetings of the secretaries general of parliaments which will be held at the same time in New Delhi. Mr. Zubi will present a study entitled "The Elections Law and its Influence on Political and Legislative Activities in the People's Assembly."

Visiting S. Korean team urges government funded technological research

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting South Korean delegation said Wednesday, Jordan should spend more on research and scientific activities, should set up specialised centres to offer scientific and technological services to local industries, and the private sector should contribute more towards achieving this goal.

At a meeting at the Ministry of High Education, representatives of scientific and industrial sectors in Jordan and South Korea discussed ways of helping Jordan benefit from the Korean experience in promoting industry. The Korean team said the importance of the scientific and technological infrastructure deserves government backing.

Environmentalists seek solutions to problems

SALT (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for Combating Environmental Pollution (JCCPEP) Tuesday, organised in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany, a one-day seminar on environmental problems in Jordan and proposed solutions to them.

At the Cultural Centre of the Salt Construction Corporation Society member Rawhi Al Sharif, who deputised for society president Ahmad Obaidat in opening the seminar, said through such meetings the society aims to define environmental problems and solve them.

Dr. Sharif reviewed the activities of the society, established in 1988 to familiarise citizens with environmental problems. He said such seminars are held to pinpoint environmental problems, and study the effects of development, industries and agriculture on the environment.

Delegates direct attention to politically-related labour topics

AMMAN (Petra) — While attention on the third day of the Arab Labour Conference was directed towards related political topics such as the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands, southern Lebanon, Iraq and Libya, Saudi Arabia's delegate to the conference Abdullah Dakhlani chose to discuss the role of working women.

"Despite the fact that women in some societies form 50 per cent of the workforce, the question of Arab women being involved in economic activities will remain controversial," Dr. Dakhlani said.

Dr. Dakhlani, who represented the employers group in Saudi Arabia, said a great deal of negative consequences were certain to emerge as a result of allowing women to work because women will lose their status at home; something which would result in broken families and poor control over children's education, he said.

Addresses by other delegates followed a politically oriented path.

Lebanese Minister of Labour Abdullah Al Amin issued an appeal to the Arab Nation to come to the aid of Lebanon and help it ensure an end to Israel's occupation of the southern regions of the country.

"I convey to you the cry for

freedom and liberation on behalf of the resistance forces in southern Lebanon," said the minister.

Referring to occupied Palestinian land and Israeli practices against Palestinian workers and their unions, the minister said "the Jewish state is now removing its false democracy mask and revealing a military dictatorship that is murdering our workers, demolishing our homes and burning our property," he said.

With regard to women in Lebanon, he said the Lebanese government was preparing a 10-year development plan which would see women playing distinguished roles.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister Seif Jarwan voiced his country's condemnation of Israel's practices against the Palestinian people and called for backing the intifada.

Sheikh Jarwan demanded the immediate implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 on the repatriation of the expellees, who are now stranded in southern Lebanon.

Mahmoud Ismail Khalil, head of the Labour Department in the state of Palestine urged Arab countries to transcend their differences and unite their ranks in order to confront the Israeli occupation.

There is no weapon stronger than right, which will triumph in the end. We have the right to call on our Arab brothers to extend to us all kinds of assistance to ensure our victory," Mr. Khalil said.

He further called on the Arabs to terminate the sanctions imposed on Libya and Iraq.

"We should not accept a situation whereby we continue to witness the Iraqi and Libyan people facing sufferings under pretexts created by the forces of hatred and treachery," said Mr. Khalil.

Iraq's Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Omid Midha warned the conference that conspiracies against the Arab Nation were continuing while the conference was in progress.

"The aggression waged on Iraq has ruined hospitals, schools, mosques, and churches, and above all shelters and social centres where innocent children, women and the elderly perished," said the Iraqi minister.

With reference to the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories, Dr. Midhat said Israel was waging genocide against the Arab population in general, and the workers and unions in particular, with the blessing of the U.N. Security Council which he called policy of selectivity in the implementation of its own resolution

Visiting eye doctors perform 18 surgeries

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team of eye specialists aboard the project Orbis plane ended a two-week working visit to Jordan Wednesday by announcing that they had performed 18 surgical operations and conducted other laser treatments during their stay.

The team, which groups doctors from 10 different countries, worked with Jordanian specialists and examined hundreds of patients at the Al Bashir Hospital, Jordan University Hospital and the Al Hussein Medical Centre, according to an announcement by Ibrahim Ayyesh, head of the Ophthalmology Department at the Al Hussein Medical Centre.

Addressing a press conference to sum up the activities of the Orbis team in Jordan, Dr. Ayyesh said there has been an extensive exchange of expertise and skills between the team members and Jordanian specialists; and the Jordanian doctors benefited a great deal.

Jordan, Italy review academic cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh received in his office Tuesday Romanoaldo Bettini, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy in the presence of Professor Gullini, Director of the Institute of Archaeological Studies at the University of Torino, and Giovanni Benenatti, cultural attaché at the Italian Embassy.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the long-standing relations between the University of Jordan and Italian institutions of higher education in the cultural and scientific fields.

Pointing in particular to the allocation of twelve graduate scholarships, amounting to US\$ 360,000 to the University of Jordan by the Italian government in the Italian language, agriculture, engineering and technology, science and pharmacy, the parties discussed the possibility of increasing the number of these scholarships for the upcoming academic year 1993/1994.

High on the agenda of their talks were ways and means of boosting the instruction of the Italian language at the Department of Modern Languages at the University, in cooperation with the Italian government.

The officials also discussed the funding of a project on electronics communications within the programme of bilateral cooperation reached earlier between the governments of both countries.

The meeting was attended by Vice-President of Academic Affairs Mohammad Maqusi.

Later, the guests called at the Language Centre and the modern languages department of the Faculty of Arts, where they were briefed on the Italian language courses offered by the university; and the intensive courses in Arabic offered for speakers of other languages.

Dr. Maqusi also Tuesday received in his office, Professor Gullini, and discussed with him a memo of agreement to be reached later between the University of Jordan and the University of Torino, with the objective of facilitating cooperation between the two universities in various fields of science, and the broad area of management cultural heritage.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artist Mohammad Nasrallah at Al Balqa Gallery, Fubeis City.
- ★ Art exhibition by Nawwaf Al Bukhari at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Suha Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Exhibition of national heritage and traditional handicrafts at Mutah University.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Re-creation" by Jordanian,

French and Iraqi artists, inspired by a sculpture by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Abdullah, at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of children's drawings at the British Council.

FILMS

- ★ Feature film entitled "Private Benjamin" at 5 p.m. at the American Centre.
- ★ French film entitled "L'autre" at 7 p.m. at the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce.

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Who nods last nods best

THE CHOICE by the Arab side to the Middle East peace process of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to represent them at talks with the U.S. administration appears to have been right since Egypt, being the largest Arab country and the only one at peace with Israel, is a friend of the West's. But Mr. Mubarak's mission was somehow tainted by the fact that most western media reports on his trip were sidetracked by the problems he faced at home. Although Mr. Mubarak is genuinely interested in peace in the region, his mind must have been occupied with increasing opposition and unrest at home, something that has been repeatedly evidenced by his statements. The fact that Mr. Mubarak is increasingly being criticised by the West for his government's mishandling of the turmoil at home is an indication that his western hosts did not have much faith in him representing his own people, let alone the Arabs in general.

Part of the Arab mandate entrusted to Mr. Mubarak was to advocate Palestinian human rights under Israeli occupation highlighted by Israeli sealing of the West Bank and Gaza and its expulsion of 400 Palestinians from their homes, an issue that is central to Palestinian reluctance to attend the next round of peace talks in Washington on April 20. Mr. Mubarak must have found it very difficult to put in a case for Palestinian human rights under Israeli occupation when his government's own record is not exactly clean. His host in Washington, President Bill Clinton, was more forthcoming when he asserted that human rights in the region are at "the forefront of the peace process" and that "there won't be peace" in the region "unless those issues are addressed." Mr. Mubarak though must be credited for apparently helping in reaching what one senior American official described as a "package" of arrangements to "persuade" the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table. The U.S. official, however, said the "package" "would come into effect once the Palestinians make the decision to come to the table." He warned that "the actions are sequential," implying that the Palestinians must nod first.

President Clinton's reassertion of U.S. commitment to the Madrid formula must help allay Palestinian fears that the new Democratic administration is not as committed to the peace process as the Republican administration of President George Bush was. The Palestinians themselves are also reporting that some agreement has been worked out whereby all the parties concerned — mainly the Palestinians, the Israelis and the Americans — would issue simultaneous declarations that would narrow the gap between their positions and make the resumption of the talks attainable. What remains to be seen, though, is how Israel would react to Mr. Clinton's assertion of the U.S. commitment to human rights in the region and to the peace process and whether Mr. Mubarak will be more successful in persuading Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, when they meet next week, of the need to be more flexible and forthcoming in his dealing with the Palestinians under Israeli occupation and abroad.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Wednesday criticised the Clinton administration for adopting a double-standard policy. While this administration continues to claim that it would like to play the role of full partner in the peace-making process, it also declares its absolute support for Israel and its policies in the occupied Arab lands, said the daily. As the contacts intensify over the prospects of resuming the peace talks, we hear U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher declare that "Washington would continue to extend absolute support" and help it absorb Jewish immigrants to be settled on occupied Arab land, said the daily. The paper said that Mr. Christopher's statement reveals a total American bias towards the Jewish state and as a full partnership with its leaders in their practices in the occupied territories. Such an attitude can by no means help end Israel's intransigence over the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 which can pave the ground for the resumption of the peace talks on schedule, said the daily. The Arabs had hoped that the U.S. administration would take real steps to prove its full role as partner in the peace process rather than a partner in Israel's intransigent position, condemning its atrocities, the paper said. While we hope to see the peace process resuming on time, concluded the daily, we also hope to see a real change in the U.S. administration's position, siding with justice and right and contributing positively towards achieving a settlement.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Wednesday that only through violence and struggle can Israel admit that the Arabs have rights and a homeland. The struggle and the intifada have forced Israel to close the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, partially recognising the pre-1967 war border lines, said Tareq Masarweh. The closure means that the Palestinians have a homeland from which one day Israeli troops will withdraw, he added. The Israelis did not close Jerusalem because it is their dream to have that city as their state's capital, he added. Israel knows the language of violence with which it has been occupying the Arab lands and it is through violence and struggle that it should be forced to leave that land, continued the writer. Some native people in the Arab World, he said, still believe that peace is a dangerous thing for Israel and so they have been running after the mirage of the Camp David accord, trying to reach peace with the Jewish state. But, he said, despite its peace treaty with Egypt, Israel invaded Lebanon and stepped up its atrocities in the occupied lands. The stones and the knives of the intifada, he said, are the only reply to Israel's atrocities and continued occupation of the Arab land of Palestine.

ARABS AND Westerners have been at odds. Lack of dialogue is noticeable in their dealings. In this article, I shall try to show what contributed to misconceptions on both sides.

The word 'Arab' conjures variant readings. An Arab is a North African immigrant in Europe. A nomad living removed from civilisation in the desert heat of Arabia. Or even a rich sheikh with a lascivious life style. Lately the word has evoked images of the terrorist or fundamentalist who kills and destroys. Through the more malign of these, people in the West are generally less sympathetic to Arab causes.

On the other hand, memories of Western colonial involvement in the Arab World with its atrocities and disregard of basic rights, still linger in the Arab mind. The West refused to accept Arabs' aspirations towards unity. Regrettably, the resultant partition of the Arab World by Western powers during and shortly after the World War I, has left a legacy of disparity. To Arabs, this has served as a historical reminder of the cruelty and indifference of Europeans. It is quite remarkable that the Arabs united by language, tradition and history are the only nation in the world divided into more than twenty two countries.

Because of the former superpowers' struggle for hegemony, each side propped up its own allies and sympathisers. Both camps sought their own national interests at any cost, and Arab right to self-determination was disregarded by the East and the West alike. Most of the bolstered Arab states did not see any need for internal reforms or popular support for the legitimacy.

Consequently, Arabs were left with despotic regimes. There has been little social justice, and

nepotism and elitism prevail. More than a few of them practised terrorism both at home and abroad. Under others, tens of thousands of people were killed. Then, ironically, forced rallies were orchestrated to foster support. Wasting tens of billions of arms impoverished millions.

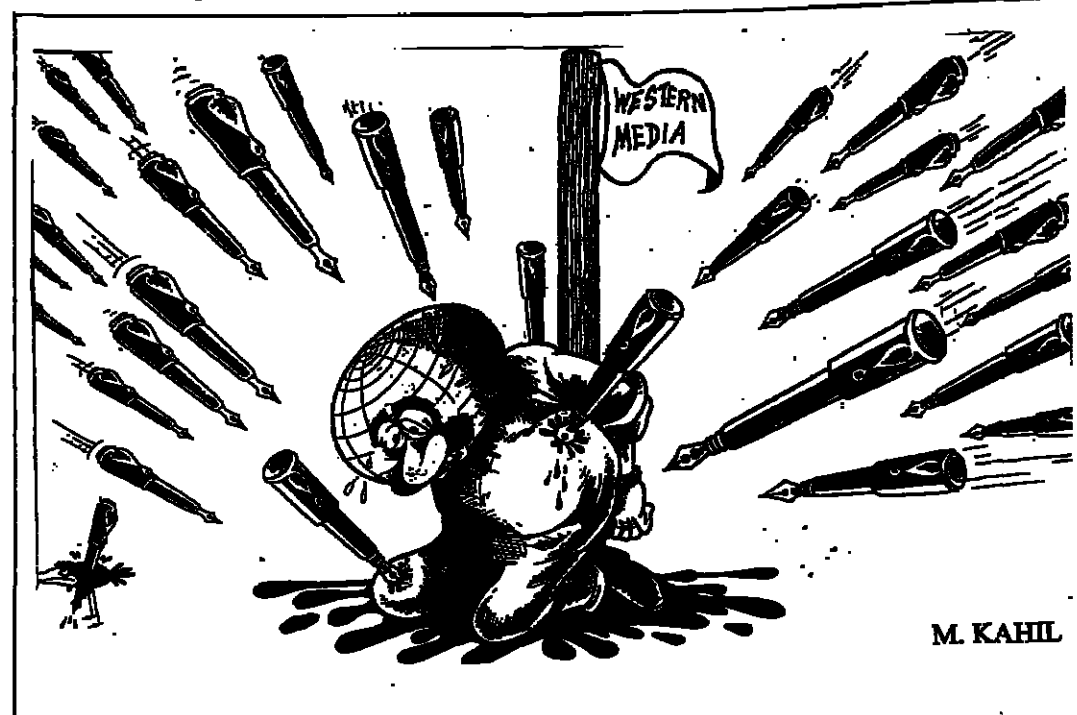
Arabs in pro-Eastern Arab regimes were indoctrinated to view the West as the source of evil and decadence. While in pro-Western Arab states the population considered these regimes as heirs of western colonialism, and blamed the West for tacitly condoning their suppressions.

The Arab-Israeli conflict has not helped. Feeling deprived of what they traditionally considered as their lands, Arabs were an easy prey for demagogues instigating anti-western feelings and promising redress.

In order to make up for Jewish suffering (and other ends), the West established a national home-land for the Jews in Palestine. This has been at the expense of Palestinians who now number more than five million. Israel's existence was at first categorically rejected by most Arab regimes, who occasionally even used it to deflect from domestic shortfalls.

For its part, Israel has also benefited from the state of confusion in the Arab World for its western image. For ages, Israeli propaganda in the West has depended on projecting Israel as democracy islanded by threat.

Recently for example, Mr. Shamir's apprehension about the ongoing peace process was that Israel is surrounded by 'unstable dictatorships' and 'militaristic regimes'. Mr. Shamir overlooked the fact that Israel is the only nuclear power in the region, and that its air force targets civilians. He also failed to mention that in the last four years, Israel has jailed more than fifty thousand



Palestinians, wounded more than fourteen thousand and killed at least eight hundred and seventy civilians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Sometimes Israeli governments played their game rather clumsily, counting only on westerners' readiness to incriminate the Arab side and the obstinacy of some of the Arab regimes. Haven't we been hearing, ad nauseam, that for peace's sake Israel is ready to go to the moon to have face-to-face talks with any Arab leader? But recently a senior Israeli aide to Mr. Shamir said: "If it is so that they expect we'll give territory and they give peace, there won't be progress."

Simultaneously, it defies the international community and the peace process by building more

settlements on the occupied Arab territories. It might be worth mentioning that international law does not accept occupation. It is only regarded as temporary, and does not warrant sovereignty. Occupants are strictly forbidden from making permanent changes on the occupied territory or transferring their civilian population thereon.

Some Israeli officials have been questioning the validity of negotiating land for peace in relation to the Palestinian issue. They claim that the Palestinians already have a state in which they constitute more than fifty per cent of the population and where they can exercise their political rights. Jordan. As it happens, Jordanians exist in their own

right. Israel perhaps betrays its failure to distinguish between two Arab peoples. How can it be acceptable that the kindness of a country towards refugees should be rewarded by writing off its very existence? According to this argument, countries should close their doors to refugees in the fear that they might become a majority and take over the country!

Israel has also justified its holding of Lebanese territories under the excuse of self-protection, and as a counter-measure to the Syrian threat. It is as if Lebanon, an internationally recognised sovereign state, has become a playground for rivals. We need not mention that sovereignty is a sacred concept in international law and cannot be compromised by such arguments. More

outrageously, Israel has occasionally even justified massacring innocent Arab people by saying that killing is endemic in the Middle East, and therefore it is only conforming to the Middle Eastern status quo.

The West's policies in the Arab World have never been conducted in an even-handed manner. The clearest example of this has been the aftermath of the Gulf crisis. The U.S. deployed more than half a million soldiers against Saddam Hussein to make him comply with U.N. resolutions. Paradoxically, it expresses reluctance to put pressure on Israel to relinquish illegally occupied Arab territories, under the pretext of reverting to neo-isolationist policies. Additionally, Saddam Hussein's megalomania could not have blossomed without massive western support. But nevertheless, the region was to bear the consequences; a devastated Kuwait, a ruined Iraq, ecological disasters, famine, disease and death.

It is frustrating that Arab people approaching the 21st Century are tyrannised and subjected to such humiliation. It is unacceptable that the Arab world, because of external involvements and internal manipulations, has become infamous for terrorism and militancy.

But despite this dismal account, it is still consoling that many Israelis and Jewish people do not agree with Israel's policies, and that many people in the West share the hope of a less nationalistic, less repressive world.

Let us hope that soon we'll see democracies in the Arab World, embracing peoples from all creeds and races.

The writer is preparing for a Ph.D degree at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

How Israel's strategy favours Iraq over Iran

By Israel Shahak

The principles of Israeli politics must be understood in regional terms. Even decisions seemingly limited to Lebanon have always been subordinated to grand strategy considerations. These have involved Syria; they now tend to involve Iran as well.

Amir Oren (Dava, 13 November) correctly points out that the thinking of Israeli strategists about Iran goes back further than worries about Iranian support for Hizbollah in Lebanon. He recalls how "the Israelis involved in Iran" (among whom he mentions Rafi Eitan and Amir Nir) had previously been involved in a major anti-Iranian operation in 1983-84, during Yitzhak Shamir's first brief premiership. Mr. Oren says that after the death of William Casey, Mr. Reagan's CIA chief, it was revealed that those Israelis "submitted to Casey a plan envisaging a joint Israeli-American effort to install the son of the late shah, Prince Riza Pahlavi, on his father's throne in the country already ruled by Khomeini". In my view, Mr. Oren's story must be authentic. However, this madness must also have been supported by some Israeli army officers. Currently, so Mr. Oren predicts, "the idea to hit Iran will inevitably crop up in the future. And some will keep blessing Iraq for remaining strong enough to prevent Iran from spreading its revolutionary message."

But Mr. Oren makes another cogent observation. "We should recall that Rabin was defence minister during the entire lunatic period in Israeli history when (Israeli intelligence) ran Pollard and pursued 'Irangate' schemes. Had he been genuinely opposed to both these affairs, he could have easily quashed them." Since Mr. Rabin became defence minister only in 1984, after Mr. Peres was appointed prime minister, Israeli efforts to win CIA approval for an Israeli-engineered coup d'état in Iran must have outlasted the "brief" premiership of Mr. Shamir. But the story began earlier. In 1979, during the last days of the shah, Mr. Sharon and several high-ranking army officers wanted to dispatch paratroopers to reinforce the shah against the rebels. Mr. Begin vetoed this insanity.

While different branches of Israeli intelligence quarrel among themselves, it can be assumed, that military intelligence currently dominates Israeli strategic planning. This implies a modicum of selectivity in choosing targets. Before the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, military intelligence clashed with Mr. Sharon, then supported by Mossad and active Israeli generals. It wanted to direct Israeli military efforts first against Syria, rather than against the PLO or in support of the Phalan-

gists. Mr. Sharon and his supporters wanted to do everything at once. Now the aggressive plans described by some Israeli commentators are notable for their selectivity. They are said to be directed against three targets: Iran, Syria and Hizbollah. But they do not include any of Mr. Sharon's pet ideas, such as an Israeli alliance with forces in Lebanon opposed to Hizbollah; they even envisage an offer of peace to Syria, on Israeli terms of course.

Implied alliance with Saddam
But hostility to Iran implies an alliance, covert but real, with Saddam Hussein's Iraq. This, although mentioned often enough by Israeli sources, has not been noticed outside Israel. Until a few months before the invasion of Kuwait, Saddam Hussein was offering to make peace with Israel. One of his attempts was described in November 1990 by Ze'ev Schiff of Ha'aretz. "Contacts for arranging a personal meeting between Saddam Hussein and Yitzhak Rabin were held a year ago" and the "middleman between Saddam and Rabin worked for 12 years in the service of Amman Hammer". Interestingly, Mr. Rabin refused to either confirm or deny Mr. Schiff's revelations.

Some of the details of the story are worth recalling. According to Schiff, Mr. Rabin, then defence minister, was approached during a visit to the U.S. through a middleman known to the White House. The offer came from "Saddam Hussein, who proposed a meeting with Yitzhak Rabin. The dates of two such meetings, to be held in Europe, were fixed, although the Iraqis later requested they be rescheduled." Mr. Rabin wanted "to hear directly about the Iraqi proposal". Meetings between middlemen of both sides were held. "Rabin accepted the proposal to meet Saddam Hussein at a location to be determined, but rejected the proposal to include a PLO representative. It was even suggested that 'Rabin may be invited to Baghdad', instead of a rendezvous in Europe. An influential aide and personal friend of Mr. Rabin, Eytan Haber, was appointed as a go-between in charge of arranging the meeting."

When confronted by Mr. Schiff with the evidence, Mr. Haber responded that "something like that had indeed occurred, but refused to provide any further information. (Mr. Haber is now the director of Mr. Rabin's private office.) It was only "when the tension (between Israel and Iraq) began to mount after Saddam Hussein's speech in February 1990 that the idea was shelved."

It can be assumed on the best authority that what was stopped during the Gulf crisis was re-

sumed not long afterwards. On April 17, 1992, two senior Israeli army generals gave exhaustive interviews to the Hebrew press. They were the deputy chief of staff, General Amnon Shahak-Lipkin and the commander of military intelligence, General Uri Saguy. Asked by Ma'ariv about his reported statement, on the last day of the Gulf war, that it was in Israel's interest that Saddam Hussein remain in power, Gen. Shahak-Lipkin replied:

"A possible removal of Saddam Hussein alone can only lead to the emergence of another dictator who will smile nicely to the entire world. And the entire world, anxious to somehow compensate Iraq for hardships inflicted on it, will help in its recovery. Therefore, if I have to choose between a boycotted Iraq with Saddam and an Iraq without Saddam again supported by the entire world, then I opt for Saddam, because Saddam will never be helped by anyone."

Gen. Saguy opened to Yediot Aharanot that there exists a threat to Israel's very survival. "Syria has always been, and still is, a threat to the security and very survival of Israel." But an even greater threat is "a Syrian-Iranian alliance." Some exchanges with his interviewer deserve to be quoted.

Q: Can a Syrian-Iranian alliance serve as a substitute for an alliance between Syria and Iraq in the formation of the eastern front against Israel?

A: There is collaboration between Syria and Iran in plenty of things. It is going to be closer. Perhaps even in strategic weaponry, and in the non-conventional ventures.

Q: Is Iran helping Syria to obtain nuclear weapons?

A: At this stage not yet. But when Iran itself gets nuclear, I cannot see how it can avoid cooperating with Syria. Such a prospect should worry us, even though it is still distant. But it is quite probable that outside forces such as the U.S. alone or together with other states, might intervene to halt the progress of Iranian rearmament. But a historical paradox is also possible: Iraq may rearm itself, with the effect of checking the growth of Iranian armed power.

There can be no doubt where the sympathies of the Israeli army and intelligence lie.

The guardian of regional stability

Israel's preference for Iraq over Iran must be seen in the context of its deeper regional strategy. A short time after the two Israeli army generals expressed their preference for Iraq, the concept of that strategy was cogently explained by the former commander of military intelligence, General (reserve) Shlomo

Gazit in a remarkably forthright article in Yediot Aharanot in April 1992. Gen. Gazit lays bare the more decisive and lasting aspects of Israel's traditional role as a strategic asset for the West, especially after the demise of the USSR.

"Israel's main task has not changed at all, and it remains of crucial importance. Its location at the centre of the Arab-Muslim Middle East predestines Israel to be a devoted guardian of stability in all the countries surrounding. Its (role) is to protect the existing regimes: to prevent or halt the processes of radicalisation, and to block the expansion of fundamentalist religious zealotry. Israel has its 'red lines', which have a powerful deterrent effect by virtue of causing uncertainty beyond its borders, precisely because they are not clearly marked or explicitly defined. The purpose of these 'red lines' is to determine which strategic developments or other changes occurring beyond Israel's borders can be defined as threats which Israel will regard as intolerable, to the point of feeling compelled to use all its military power for the sake of their prevention or eradication."

In other words, the "red lines" are Israel's ultimata imposed on all Middle Eastern states.

One "red line" is intended to preclude threats of a revolt which may bring extremist elements to power. A prime example is the preservation of Israel's peace treaty with Egypt and of the de facto peace between Israel and Jordan. In both cases, Israel's "red lines" communicate to its neighbours that Israel will not tolerate anything that might encourage extremist forces to follow in the footsteps of either the Iranians or the Algerians. According to Israeli strategic thinking, Iran and/or Syria may be attacked so that fundamentalist influence in Egypt or Jordan may diminish.

In Gen. Gazit's view, Israel thus performs a vital service in guaranteeing regional stability. Without Israel, the West would have to perform this role by itself. Israeli moves in Lebanon, or even against Syria, should always be viewed in the context of these strategic considerations, which establish Iran as the chief Israeli target. These considerations seem to be quietly supported by the U.S. and other Western powers.

But contrary to its claims, Israel is not acting for the sake of the West. Its search for hegemony stems from its own time-honoured ambitions, which now dictate its strategic aims. These ambitions, and U.S. support for them, cannot but spell disaster for the entire region sooner or later, and it now seems sooner rather than later — Middle East International.

LETTERS

Wrong right?

To the Editor:

Lately I have noticed many articles in our newspapers, written by men, questioning the women's right to work. Many claim that working women are the reason for the unemployment in our society today. They say that this has forced young men to stay at home and has rendered them unable to get married. Some have gone further, accusing working women of being the cause of crimes committed by unemployed men who have nothing else to do with their time.

When one talks about unemployment in a society, one should not be selective. There are women who are unemployed too. There is no justification for the accusation levelled at women.

People seem to forget that women make up half of the society and have an important role to play in its development. Most working women nowadays have families to support and the rising cost of living makes their income essential to their household.

Sometimes the women are the sole providers. They are either widows or their husbands cannot work for health reasons. Can we expect these women to leave their jobs?

As for housework and raising children, this is a dual task, involving both husband and wife. Both parents are responsible for the welfare of their children, since marriage should be based on mutual trust and understanding between both parties. This requires sacrifice and concessions on both sides. And that would definitely solve the problem of working women having to balance between their jobs and house chores.

Let's keep in mind that work helps develop one's personality and gives one a sense that he or she is contributing to the improvement of society. Work helps promote a better sense of responsibility among all members of society.

So women, as individuals, have the right to participate in building a civilised Jordanian society, a society where everyone should have the opportunity to affect its development.

Mohammad A. Jalal,
P.O. Box 34,
11831 Amman.

A 'drop' in time saves nine

To the Editor:

I have been reading with great interest your various articles and reports on water resources and conservation. The Arab World as a whole faces severe water shortages. And although there have been meetings at the highest levels to discuss water shortage problems, no solution seems to be in sight.

In my personal experience, I have come across so many families who waste water without a second thought. Many people in Jordan wash their kitchens at least twice a day with lots of water. This is absolutely unnecessary as swabbing the floor would be just as good. People also leave the hose-pipe running in their gardens; result: overwatering the plants and wasting water. Taps are left running, cars are washed unnecessarily and even the verandas are washed daily.

Islam says it is a sin to waste water. Yet, in spite of this, many do not bother about saving this precious commodity.

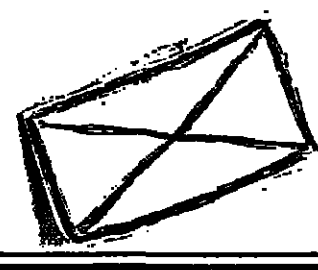
So I urge the people to be careful not to waste water. It is our duty to the future generations to conserve it.

I also urge the government to use the media to convey water conservation messages to the nation. The government must act now, otherwise it will have only itself to blame later.

Khaled Mohammad Odeh
Mafrag.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Weekender



Graduates in the kitchen

"Read: In the name of the Lord who createth thee"; the first line of the Holy Qur'an assumes that those being addressed are literate. But adult literacy statistics for much of the Arab World lag far behind those of other developing countries with comparable wealth. And the proportion of women who are unable to write is much larger than the proportion of illiterate men. Debbie Taylor visited Jordan, where three decades of free and compulsory schooling have finally closed the gap between girls' and boys' education. She wrote this article in People And The Planet magazine.

JORDAN in winter is the colour of dust. The hills are nibbled clean of vegetation; geometric plantations of grey olive trees hug the sandy soil to stop the wind blowing it away. Cars, windows, even

people's shoes, are dulled by layers of soft opaque beige. Fields of polythene greenhouses testify to the country's efforts to make this desert bloom, but the dust-coloured high-rises of downtown Am-

man indicate where the nation's real wealth lies. "It has become the country's long-standing policy to rely on human capital due to lack of natural resources," declares the Ministry of Education's annual report. In other words: Jordanian citizens are their country's main source of wealth and investing in their education is a major priority. The report goes on to stress the importance of "promoting a new emphasis on technology" and "upgrading Jordan's human resources base into an increasingly knowledge-intensive, skill-adaptable workforce, capable of responding flexibly to changing societal needs".

The message is clear: Jordan is aiming for a Japanese-style economic miracle and hopes to use education to achieve it. In this it is already far in advance of the other countries in the Arab World. Over 90 per cent of eligible children are now enrolled in the compulsory 10-year basic education cycle which takes them up to the age of 15, and around 60 per cent go on for a further two years of either vocational training or specialised preparation for university.

More impressive still — and unique for a Muslim country — is the complete erosion of the gender gap at both of these levels of education. Indeed, from the ages of six to 16, there are now actually slightly more girls than boys at school — though young men still predominate in the university system.

"It has happened in just one generation," said Hilwa Malhas of the General Federation of Jordanian Women. "When I was a child, only 20 girls went to secondary school each year. There were 20 cities in the country and the school just selected one girl from each city."

But if Jordan's educational miracle is supposed to engender an economic miracle, it seems that the latter will have to take place without the women. Because, though the majority of Jordanian women are literate, they still comprise only 14 per cent of the labour force. True, this figure is likely to be somewhat of an underestimate — women working on family farms and in domestic service tend to be missed out of labour-force calculations — but it still indicates the extent to which women have failed to take their place in the modern economic sectors of the new Jordan.

The relative paucity of women with jobs is not the only mystery. In every other country with comparable levels of women's education, fertility rates have fairly plummeted. In Chile, for instance, and Singapore, where three-quarters of girls are in secondary school, women have only 2.7 and 1.8 children respectively. Not so in Jordan.

Though the average number of children each Jordanian woman bears did drop from 7.7 in 1971/75 to 5.6 in 1987/90, this is still a great deal higher than one would

expect. And though around 58 per cent of Jordanian women have used some kind of family planning, they tend to use it for spacing their pregnancies rather than reducing the sizes of their families. The much-vaunted "education effect" just does not seem to work as strongly in Jordan.

One clue as to why traditional roles are slow to change came from Buthaina Jardaneh of the Business and Professional Women's Club. "Our religion says 'the man is the breadwinner', she said. "That's one reason why women take their jobs less seriously. But if women want to work, or if they have to — because their husbands are badly-paid, or unemployed, or if they're divorced — then it's very difficult for them."

She explained that, until recently, certain professions — such as nursing, air-hostessing and hotel work — were considered "unrespectable" because they involved close contact with men. Others, with long working hours or shifts entailing travel after dark, are similarly problematic for a decent woman. "And, of course, there are always the children to think of," she spread her hands expressively. This was why women comprised two-thirds of the teaching workforce: Because this was one of the few jobs that allowed women to combine working with motherhood. "You know, there was a law passed recently which obliges businesses employing over 30 women to provide creche facilities," she said. "So suddenly we have all these companies with just 29 women on their staff!"

To find out how young people themselves feel about their future, I went to school. "I want to be a secretary when I leave school," said 16-year-old Bushra. "Then I'll get married when I'm about 24." She was sitting behind an adding-machine in a classroom decked out as an office as part of the school's "commercial" training option. "Then my husband will want me to stop work to look after the children." "And then?" I asked. She looked puzzled for a moment, as though she had never thought that far into the future before. "I suppose when the children leave home, I will look after my grandchildren," she said vaguely.

"What about the rest of you?" I turned to the other girls who had been listening to our conversation. "Will you all stop work when you get married?" They nodded their pristine white-scarfed heads: They all intended to go out to work for a few years, then settle down to look after their families. Three or four children was a good sized family, they agreed: They couldn't bear the idea of ending up like their mothers. "When you have eight or 10 children, your life is very hard," said Bushra.

"There can be hard work too," I pointed out. "Yes, I know," she rolled her eyes. "It's such a responsibility."



More girls than boys are now in school in Jordan

These are the best years for us, when we can go to school and go out to work and be free.

"Free? What do you mean?"

"We can go out during the day and meet people and go shopping with our own money. When you become a mother you have to become more serious and that lasts for the rest of your life."

The girls in the sewing room were less excited about the prospect of work. Less academically-able than their peers, they had been directed towards the more manual of the vocational options, where they could specialise in sewing, knitting, cooking, hair-dressing and the like — the stereotypical "pink-collar" skills that equip a woman for low-paid employment. Government statistics reveal 5,225 young men enrolled on industrial training courses, and a further 442 learning about agriculture — but not one young woman.

I discovered that there was a growing home-working industry in Jordan: Women are provided with the sewing or knitting machines, plus materials, and are paid according to the number of garments they produce in their own homes. "How much can they earn?" I asked the sewing teacher, wanting to compare it to the JD200 average monthly wage for a man. "I think it's about JD15 for a week's work," she said. "But some of them are only doing this so they can become better wives."

A group of the girls were nudging each other and giggling. "Samah's already engaged," they said, pushing a pretty 15-year-old forwards. Her hair was dishevelled and her clothes threadbare, but her brown eyes danced as she answered my questions. "He's my cousin. He's been waiting for my 15th birthday so we could get married. I'm going to have six children: three boys and three girls," she paused, suddenly shy. "I really love him," she said. "And will you work when he's married?" "He'll decide, but I think he'll want me to stay at home." On this — again — there was universal agreement among the girls. "But what if your husbands are unemployed?" I asked them. "I suppose I'd

have to work in a factory," said one. "I wouldn't marry a man without a job!" declared another, laughing.

It wasn't until I spoke to the scientists that I found any girls who envisaged working after they had their first child. "I want to fight cancer because it is killing people I love," said an earnest 16-year-old with heavy glasses. "And I want to be independent when I get married, with my own salary." Two or three children seemed to be the consensus among these determined career girls.

"What if your husband doesn't agree?" "I'll make sure he agrees before we get engaged," she said firmly.

Maintaining respectability is very important in Jordanian society. The girl engineering students I spoke to refused to talk to me in the cafeteria, insisting on going to an empty lecture-room instead. "We can buy our food there, but if we are just talking, the boys will think we are making ourselves available to them."

"But when you graduate as engineers, surely you'll be working with men all the time?"

"It's different when you are at work. The men know you are qualified. They know you have a reason to be there. But still, you can't work late."

Some were wearing Western clothes — skirts and jumpers, wildly coiffured curls — others were more soberly shrouded in scarves and jellabas. Why the difference? I asked. They shrugged, laughing. "There's no rule: It depends on you. If you wear a jellabah you don't have to think about what to wear or worry about people looking at you. But it's very unusual to dress like Wasan." They indicated a young woman covered from head to toe in shades of grey and black, with just a slit for her eyes.

"I like it," she replied simply when I questioned her. "It's something I choose to do because of my religion." "Will it prevent you working?" I asked, intrigued, because she'd said she would be working on a building site as a structural engineer. "My personality will triumph!" she said, and her brown eyes shone with mischief.



Desert Cinderella

"This is my diary," said sixteen year-old Nawal. "I write here the things that have happened to me." There were a few pages covered in the delicate embroidery of Arabic script, then page after page of emptiness, with just a few sparse entries. "My sister got married here," she said, indicating one closely-written section near the beginning, "and this is when my father took me out of school. Nothing really happens now. I have to stay at home every day, cleaning and cooking for my father and his new wife, and my step-brothers. When my sister was at home we shared the work, but now she's gone, they shout for me all the time."

She took out another book and opened it. "These are my poems," she said shyly. "Since my sister left there is no-one to talk to, so I use this book to express how I feel. My father won't allow me to have visitors and he beats me if I go any further than the village shop."

"You know, I was very clever at school. I had lots of friends and my teachers encouraged me. They said they would try to find a sponsor to pay for me to sit the graduation exams. But my father just refused to allow it. Maybe it's because he didn't go to school. Maybe he doesn't want an educated daughter."

"Look, I have drawn a moon here and an eye with tears coming out of it. At night I sit and look up at the moon and cry. Sometimes I dream that a beautiful young man will marry me and take me away from here. Sometimes I dream I'm a bird and I can fly wherever I want. But I know it's just a dream."

Singapore humiliates litterbugs

By Moon Ihlwan
Reuters

SINGAPORE — Singapore is penalising litterbugs with public humiliation — a move one outraged legislator says smacks of Mao Tse-tung's Cultural Revolution.

The government recently ordered 10 litterbugs to wear neon-green vests and pick up rubbish for an hour before jeering onlookers and television crews.

It said hefty fines against littering had failed to check the menace, an obsessive issue in the squeaky clean city.

The 10 were shown on primetime television news, and all local newspapers carried front-page stories and

photographs of the offenders trying to hide their faces.

The incident sparked a rare outcry, with six members of parliament of the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) criticising the move in the house.

"Many Singaporeans, including myself, were shocked by the way the first 10 corrective work order offenders had been publicly treated," PAP backbencher Teo Chong Tee said.

"What Singaporeans saw on television and in the newspapers vividly brought to mind how the so-called counter-revolutionaries during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution in China were ridiculed and humiliated: That is, paraded as dunces in the streets to the

amusement, boos and jeers of the onlookers."

The 10 were the first to be sentenced under a new law requiring that those caught littering perform compulsory community service for up to three hours under supervision.

"The wearing of the colourful 'vest of shame' with the words 'Corrective Work Order' (CWO) boldly inscribed on it indeed reminded us of the so-called enemies of the people in Mao's China, when the Red Guards reigned," Mr. Teo said.

PAP legislator John Chen said that though most Singaporeans agreed with the CWOs, they were outraged by the humiliation the offenders were put through. Singapore is a predomi-

nantly Chinese society, where the saving of "face" is sacred.

Citizens phoned newspapers in angry protest at the media coverage. Reporters and photographers had been invited to the CWO work site by the government.

The callers said that what was a relative minor offence was being punished threefold — first in the court, second in a public place and third by the media.

Shipping executive Tan Kia Poh, 47, told the daily New Paper: "I'm not quarrelling with the punishment for littering, but there should not be this frantic sensationalisation." Singaporeans, who can already be fined up to Singa-

pore 1,000 (\$600) for spitting, smoking in indoor public places and not flushing public toilets, were banned last year from making or importing chewing gum because of the mess left by users.

Earlier this month, authorities installed closed-circuit television cameras at a housing estate to try to catch tenants throwing rubbish out of their windows.

Some members of parliament have suggested that CWOs be carried out in less public places but Environment Minister Ahmad Mattar disagreed.

"It is not possible to accept the CWO and yet not come to terms with the offender feeling a sense of shame," Mr. Mattar said.

"Public interest in the matter is to be expected, and media coverage will serve to remind the public of the consequences of littering," Mr. Mattar added.

Leslie Fong, editor of the Straits Times, which is owned by a government holding company, said: "My intention was to reinforce the shame. I make no bones about that. I believed, and still do, that it would be an effective deterrent."

A columnist wrote in the Straits Times, however, that the humiliating publicity was out of proportion to the crime.

"If shame is considered an effective deterrent, why not parade rapists and murderers in public stockades?" he asked.

Diary

NARROW NEWS AND VIEWS: A report on top political changes in Jordan appeared in the Paris-based satirical-cum-serious *Al Muharrir* newspaper this week. The report's writer, unidentified under the stringent, economist-like newspaper policy guidelines, predicted that Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Bin Shaker will opt to stay on and head a transitional government to supervise Jordan's next parliamentary elections. "But the next premier could also be Thouqan Hindawi (presently Sharif Zeid's number two man in the cabinet), the writer says, going on to more of the same. "Hindawi may decide to run for elections if he is, not appointed premier, but he might also accept to join Mr. ranks with (former Foreign Minister) Marwan Al Qasabhel and (former Interior Minister) Sulaiman Arar to form a pro-team of three deputy prime ministers in the next government. These changes will lead to the appointment of Royal Court Chief Khaled Karaki as the king's advisor on national security and of (former Prime Minister) Zeid Rifai as a political advisor to the king or even the royal court chief's job." The report then turns more specific by predicting that "Al Ra'i" (Arabic daily) editor Mahmoud Al Kayed will replace fellow editor Mahmoud Al Sherif as minister of information, and that chief press officer at the royal court, Mohammad Daoudieh, will resign his post to run for a parliamentary seat in Tafilah. "So far so good since these are far-fetched but possible appointments. But the report does not end there. Last but not least, it says, there will be structural changes in the Royal Court itself, for the Diwan will add to its present departments one that deals exclusively with parliamentary affairs. "That department will be headed by a capable journalist who is also highly knowledgeable about parliamentary affairs: his name is Faisal Shboul," the report says "now it hinges on your good luck, Faisal," it concludes. It naturally took some people a while to figure out the accuracy of the predictions in the report, but very few got stuck in figuring out who actually wrote it. Was it some aspirant for a job with the office of His Majesty the King?

RESHUFFLE EPIDEMIC HITS HOME: After a series of reports about cabinet ministers suffering from health problems during the past few months, many think that the impending government reshuffle has nothing to do with politics and political work. The reshuffle is coming because our team of officials are "overworked and exhausted" simply fed up," their friends think. It all started with minister of labour, Abdul Karim Kabariti, and minister of planning, Ziad Fariz, who had an accident in a car he was driving after which Dr. Fariz needed a few days in bed. Then Minister of Energy Ali Abul Ragheb went to hospital for a minor operation and at the same time Minister of Trade and Industry Abdullah Ensour had health snag in Indonesia when he was off his way to Australia for trade talks. Deputy Premier and Minister of Transport Ali Subeimat has just also undergone medical tests. And the minister of health himself was taken ill and needed hospitalisation at one stage. Friends report that the ministers mentioned above are doing well and fine now but the more cynical among the pals insist that the cause of all official ills can be attributed to working with ill Jordanian people, who generally show no mercy toward public servants, especially the senior ones. A sly politician operator rejects this theory, however. "There may have been an increase in illnesses among the ministers, but the percentage is nothing compared to that which afflicts ordinary people who continually get sick as a result of ministers' policies."

DONE THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY: Intelligent readers have in the last week, been "sort of" complaining about the lack of background information in Jordanian newspapers on the changes made earlier this week in the army and police (Public Security) Department. Most of those readers do of course understand that talking about these changes is a highly sensitive matter since appointments in the army and security apparatus are not only considered a national security matter, but also discussing them in the media is banned under the newly-passed press and publications law. There is naturally a story behind every change, particularly in power corridors, and the above case might be no exception. But much of what has been said about what happened this week remains largely hearsay that could not be confirmed. The Jordan Times, in its usual formidable way seeking the truth, would have loved to scoop others in determining and telling the whole story. In fact it did give me information about the top-level changes, than all Arabic newspapers and magazines. But there were too many loopholes to pounce on any credible story to be written about the background to change. "Too many unsubstantiated claims and counterclaims to why people went and came prevented us from better coverage of the change," an editor confided to the diary. So we did it the comfortable old-fashioned way: None of us wanted to go to before the next elections are run and done with. See you in change.

CARS IN DIPLOMATIC RACE: The British ambassador Amman Patrick Evers, had an unlucky run-in with cars and other this past week. After week-long preparations to race against around 30 cars in a rally that was held last week, the ambassador was all ready to go when his car got stuck on third gear leaving him and his co-driver, a fellow embassy operator, without extra power to take on the hill ahead of them. The Royal Automobile Club, which organised the rally, nevertheless let the envoy under its wing and presented him with the "novice" driver's prize. But that prize was apparently only a balm in the bad luck the ambassador had encountered with cars week. On Saturday the ambassador and his wife were taking drive in their Land Rover Discovery when they hit a small gr Mazda 323 on the 5th Circle. The small car, driven by a young woman, was only slightly hit but needed a push to get back on road. So Ambassador Evers and his wife parked their (hopefully without difficulty) and helped the children-pacy Mazda along. Someone who heard about these incidents pointed out that the British envoy may now have to turn his attention to diplomacy, since his embassy might have needed his leader and talent for elsewhere. "On at least an issue that concerns relations with the press, Ambassador Evers needed to be the he said."

HEY, MR. POSTMAN: As part of its strategy for developing improving the post office system in Jordan, the Telecommunications Corporation has added numbers and letters to the personal post office codes in Jordan to facilitate and quicken distribution of mail. So far this is good news, even though we suffer from a kind of inferiority complex because we are on the few countries which still do not enjoy the services of friendly postman of the neighbourhood. The so said new that the Telecommunications Corporation expects those who write us here in Jordan to know that these important changes taken place and abide by the new codes. The bad news is that don't and many Jordanians are complaining that their mail dwindled because the codeless mail is now apparently with destination.

Cleaning up your act

By Jean-Claude Elias

It is surprising to see how some people, in other respects perfectly organised, can create the worst mess when it comes to their personal computer's (PC) hard disk drive (HDD). Except in corporate use where keeping the filing in the computer neat and tidy is part of the job, private users tend to leave data on the HDD in a chaotic situation.

When PCs were introduced in the market more than ten years ago, having an HDD in addition to the ubiquitous floppy drive was considered more of a luxury than a Rolls-Royce Corvair in your driveway. In 1984-1986 manufacturers started offering HDDs with capacities ranging from 10 to 20 megabytes (MB) or million characters. With the incredibly fast evolution the computer world has shown, the average PC's HDD now has 120 to 200 MB of fast access and highly reliable data on disk.

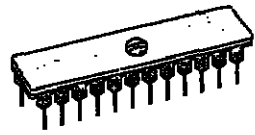
Efficiently managing data on the HDD is a simple matter of common sense. However, if handling 10 million characters is almost intuitive, keeping 200 MB or more of data and disk files well organised requires some planning and discipline. How do HDDs become untidy, what are the problems that this can cause, and what are the basic and easy rules that anyone can apply to keep data on HDDs in good "health"?

Data on disks is saved (recorded) in files. Files are grouped in sub-directories that can be considered as branches. The names of the files and the directories are usually user-given, except if they are pre-programmed by someone else. In theory there is no limit to the number of files that a disk will take, but there is obviously a limit in terms of absolute capacity. In clear English this means that on a 20 MB HDD one can store up to 20 files of 1 MB each, or 10 files of 2 MB each, or 100 files of 0.2 MB each, or any other combination that satisfies the equation. A programme can be made of several files. A large programme can occupy tens of MB on the HDD.

Confusion on an HDD comes from not grouping separate programmes in separate directories for instance. It is like filing all your papers or documents in the same drawer instead of a filing cabinet with a different drawer for each specific set of files, serving the same purpose. It also comes from opening too many useless files, keeping them on the disk and then forgetting what they represent a few weeks or months later. It is not unusual to find 3,000 or 4,000 files on an HDD. How can anyone expect to manage such a number without a minimum of organisation? People always discard notes and papers in the waste basket once they are useless, but they don't think of doing the same with disk files. Leaving too many people use your PC will also contribute to more havoc for they might, without keeping you informed, open new directories and files on your HDD. Keeping different versions of the same software is another way to overcrowd your disk.

Once your HDD is filled with unknown, unwanted or useless files and directories, searching for data will become more difficult and the back-up (security copy on floppies or tapes) operations will also become longer and more

chip talk



difficult. Knowing what is necessary to copy and what is not becomes a nightmare. Moreover, you will soon run out of disk capacity. Another problem many users complain about — without knowing the reason why — is the disk's speed reduction. HDDs tend to be slower in storing and retrieving files once they are near their full capacity. In about eighteen years of computer experience, I have found that it is usually possible to "clean" up to 20 per cent of an HDD without discarding really important data.

Having analysed and understood the reasons behind disorganised HDDs and the consequent difficulties in managing data on them, the cure or rather the cures become obvious and simple. Do not leave unimportant files permanently stored. A simple 20-line letter to your grand-ma doesn't have to be kept forever on disk. Review your files regularly — on a monthly basis for instance — and delete what is not essential. Keep programmes in separate directories, all operations will be more simply done this way: Copying, deleting, retrieving, etc. Give your files significant names that will help you remember what were created for, even years later. Build your files with generic names. All your personal letters could be named PERSL1, PERSL2, and so on, while your business letters will be BUSL1, BUSL2, and so on. It is not even computer science, it is basic logic. If another person has to use your PC, make sure to be informed, in detail, of what he or she would have saved or deleted from the HDD. Better still, define a "modus operandi" so you both work the same way, using the same conventions. All people in an office follow the same discipline when it comes to stationery, telephones, photocopier, and the coffee machine.

Do not leave several versions of the same programme on the disk. Unless you have a good reason to do so, it is usually perfectly useless. Most developers ensure that their new releases and versions can read files created with previous ones. If you have programmes that you do not often use, it might be a good idea to leave them on floppy disks and use them from there without copying onto the HDD. Unfortunately some software will simply not run directly from floppy and need to be installed on the hard disk.

If you think that the above is exaggerated or blown up, it could only mean one of two things: you are a perfectly organised person yourself and take order for granted, or you have never seen the desperation in the eyes of a PC user who is drowning in a sea of disk files that have lost their meaning for him.

In the circle of my mind

By E. Yaghi

I am one of the largest circles in Amman. Before I was born, nothing much existed in my area but empty plots of land and a lot of dust blown by the harsh arid winds. Then, someone came up with the brainstorm of scooping out tons of earth to make way for my establishment. Tractors steamed until late afternoons and their drivers sweated under the sweltering Jordanian sun to empty a huge cavity that was to become my permanent home. Workers lovingly planted scrawny saplings which courageously withstood the winter storms that later tore and pulled at them in countless directions. Now, they have proudly grown to sturdy trees that young boys climb whenever my gardener isn't looking. A cobblestone sidewalk crisscrosses me and at convenient intervals, benches are located to provide the weary with a place of rest. All in all, I have much to be thankful for, especially in spring when all kinds of birds flock to perch and sing on the branches of my trees, and families stroll in the evening cool and spread blankets on my soft brown earth in order to sit and view the traffic that endlessly envelops me. Often on my shores, small boys gather to play football until the deep of night.

Yet, I feel that though life may have improved since my first gasp of breath and infant gurgles, much is to be desired. For instance, directly across me to one side, some deserted houses crumble and decay in the middle of a street that is supposed to be but isn't. I find it difficult to sleep at night fretting over the fact that these dilapidated structures could collapse on an innocent person. Many times the municipality has inspected the area and done absolutely nothing about anything at all. Those in charge wear the same old suits and stalk around with pompous airs, inspect the street which is occupied with squatters' homes, view the ghetto-like abodes and then turn on their heels with their noses pointed towards the sun and leave, promising sometime in the year 3025 to attend to the problem. I do try to cope with my many difficulties, but then when it rains in winter, I can't help but notice too that the streets which encircle me are flooded with water that never seems to find its path to the drain that has been made and remade to accommodate the situation. As for the pot holes in the street, they just mar by beauty and no matter how many times the municipal workers repair them the same old holes return to occupy their same old positions and wound my vanity.

As if that isn't enough, for one week, one of the sewage drains of an occupant of a home near me, poured ceaselessly out onto the surrounding sidewalk and over into the street. The odor was repugnant not to mention the terrible and dangerous germs that oozed forth to contamin-

ate those who trespassed in the area unaware of what they were walking into. I shuddered when some small children dropped some chips in the mess and then picked them up and unknowingly ate them. Who should I blame for this crime of negligence? First, I accuse the owner of his total absence of consideration and then again, the municipality for its lack of concern for public safety and immediate action. If I were situated in the middle of a very primitive society, then perhaps I could overlook such disregard for the welfare of the people, old and young, big and small. But since many claim that they are sophisticated and civilised, then these attributes should be made evident in such matters of extreme importance.

Sometimes when I almost doze off for a nap, speeding cars crash into each other and curses and shouts shatter my calm repose. A traffic light or two would work wonders and a traffic cop even more. As it is, nearly every day an accident occurs and sometimes school children are hit by cars because there is no systematic means of controlling a traffic whether car or pedestrian. My area is peopled with a multitude of humans. Humans need protection from themselves through regulations and order to better effect their safety and well-being.

The other afternoon I was shocked to witness three young men bash down the glass doors of some shops across from me. These delinquents each had respectively, a gun, a knife, and a metal pipe. They had also been released from prison having just completed confinement for previous offenses. There was no apparent reason for the attack but it is suspected that the criminals were under the influence of alcohol. A knife should be considered a dangerous weapon, for how many countless people have either died from knife wounds or been seriously wounded?

I am waiting for the day when conditions around me will improve even further. I will be happy when those uninhabitable shacks are destroyed, when the promised street that lives only in a forgotten dusty blueprint becomes a reality, when traffic lights are installed and produce order and when people look around them and begin to really care and worry about improving not only their own immediate surroundings but those of their neighbours through concerted efforts aimed at reaching those responsible. Why not lobby the proper authorities for the inherent rights as taxpayers and human beings?

Meanwhile, I'll enjoy the sounds and smells of spring when lilacs, lilies and roses bloom, when people's laughter rings in the air and when there is a promise of hope and a rebirth of energy and life in Jordan's most beautiful season of the year.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

HUMOROUS QUOTATIONS

Smoking

- To smoke a cigar through a mouthpiece is equivalent to kissing a lady through a respirator.
- Those who give up cigarette smoking aren't the heroes. The real heroes are the rest of us — who have to listen to them. Sometimes they make me feel so sad I have to light up a big fat cigar to keep from breaking into tears.
- A cigarette a man's refuge when he cannot face a woman's eyes.
- Tobacco is a dirty weed: I like it. It satisfies no normal need: I like it. It makes you thin, it makes you lean, it takes the hair right off your beard; It's the worst damn stuff I've ever seen: I like it.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S SAY IT IN ARABIC

At The Airline's Office

- Good morning. I'd like an air-ticket.
- Good morning. Where to? Sabah El-Khair. Bideez tazkaret ta'ira.
- To London. Economy Class.
- Single or return? Ila London. Daraja siyahiya.
- Return. I'm going on holiday. Zehab aw zehab wa-awda?
- When are you leaving? Zehab wa-awda. Ana musafer fee ijaza.
- The day after tomorrow. Imta ayez tisafer?
- And how long do you want to stay? Baad bokra.
- Not long. About three weeks. Lee imta ayez tokeem honak?
- Moosh rayeh okeem modda taweela. Hawali thalathet asabee.
- Name? Eish ismak?
- Thank you. Check in at the airport at least forty-five minutes before take off. Shukran. Wazzen el-shonak wa tammim ilja'at el safar kabla ilka' el ta'ira bikhamsa wa-araba'een dakika ala al akal.
- Oh, yes. Thank you. Good-bye. Na'am. Ashkorak. Ma'assalama.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STRANGE BUT TRUE

- Spinach loses 50 per cent of its Vitamin C content within twenty-four hours after being picked.
- The Statue of Liberty weighs 225 tonnes.
- Healthy pigeons have never been known to sleep or close their eyes.
- Both Julius Caesar and Napoleon Bonaparte were victims of epilepsy.
- The heart of a snake is located about one-fifth the distance from its head to the end of its tail.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

JOKES

- PATIENT: "Doctor, doctor, hurry please. I've got only 50 minutes to live."
- DOCTOR: "Wait a minute, please!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- A WOMAN walked into a furrier's shop and asked for a drop-dead coat.
- "What on earth is a drop-dead coat?" asked the furrier.

"A coat so good that when my neighbour sees it, she will drop dead!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE MAN wearing a rather frayed suit entered a tailor's shop.

"I hear that my son has owed you for a suit for three years," he commented.

The tailor's face brightened. "That's right, sir," he replied.

"And have you come to pay the bill?"

"Heck no," replied the other. "I want one myself on the same terms."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Who was the first person to organise a beauty contest?
2. Which was the first country to quit the Non-Aligned Movement?
3. Correctly, should guests be served from the left or right?
4. What is serology?
5. What are steelies, aggies, glassies and puries?
6. What are monotremites?
7. On which river does the city of Madrid stand?
8. The people of which island speak Merina?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HAPPY DREAMS

HOSPITAL: If you dreamed that you were taken to a hospital or were a patient in one, the dream is telling you that you are in imminent danger of being overwhelmed by some load you are trying to carry alone; don't be a proud fool. Ask for help. A dream of visiting a hospital or helping in one predicts surprising news.

AMBULANCE: No broad interpretation can be given, as this dream varies greatly according to its details, but it is generally a dream of warning against indiscretion in relations with the opposite sex. However, a full ambulance signifies the fulfillment of your hopes in a shorter time than you think possible.

DOCTOR: He's a good man or woman to have in your dream because he or she forecasts an improvement in all departments of your life.

NURSE: A dream featuring a professional nurse signifies marriage for the single and family unity for the married, unless you are a trained nurse or in daily contact with them, in which case the dream has no prophetic significance.

OPERATION: An important change in your fundamental life-style is forecast in a dream of undergoing surgery; to dream of observing an operation predicts unexpected news. However, neither of these dreams has any significance if you practise (or are connected with) any form of medicine.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

Put three letters in front and the same three letters in the same order behind each of the following groups of letters to form words.

ERTAINM
ENTIALN
ERGRO
ERGO
ACHA
SH
AU
X

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 8

- 8:30 Zorro
- 9:00 Quantum Leap
- 9:30 episode deals with an American gangster and his through time.
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:30 Movie Of The Week
- Rose And The Jackal

ring: Christopher Reeve
Madelyn Osborne

A people in love with each other are caught on opposite sides during the American War.

Friday, April 9

- 8:30 Attraction
- 9:00 employee falls in love with a girl, Billy encourages and strengthens his relation with the girl.
- 9:30 W.E.N.G.
- 10:00 Tyger

as, an ex-convict who is for Channel 10 as a Archer, uses unethical means in order to become a hero.

News In English

Wagner

krings: Richard Burton, Thessa Redgrave, Laurence Shy and Ralph Richard.

er's wife follows him to after her miscarriage.

Friday, April 10

Super Bloopers

Scenes showing the Bloopers and mistakes of celebrities and actors.

9:00 Local Programme

9:30 Saturday Variety Show

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Hand Of Murder

Starring: Edward Woodward and Anthony Andrews.

Sunday, April 11

8:30 Executive Stress

Donald and Caroline work in a publishing house. They keep their marriage secret because it is not allowed for married couples to work in company.

9:10 Documentary

10:00 News In English

10:20 Voltaire

Monday, April 12

8:30 The Powers That Be

I Am Your Dummy

The senator asks Bradley to act as a Dummy in the play which the president is going to watch.

9:10 Laurel And Hardy

Pardon Us

Laurel and Hardy escape from prison.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Jordan Weekly

10:40 Street Justice

Kid Stuff

Sergeant Adam and his

friend, Eddy, investigate a new case about an adopted boy who has been abused by one of his foster parents.

Tuesday, April 13

8:30 Step By Step

9:10 Forever Green

Lady Pat approaches Harriet to ask if Jack and she could possibly "check out" the newcomers who've bought Colley Farm from the Taylors. The latter couple had been at the farm for sixty-three years — naturally Lady Pat is doubtful about the change. Jack is at Harriet's farm, helping him to fit the new hydro-turbine at Stowey Brook.

Bob the postman delivers Harriet and Lady Pat's mail. The latter's appears to comprise of bills, but amongst Harriet are Freddy's GCSE results. Harriet phones Jack's mobile phone to inform him, and he goes to fetch her from Claud Taylor's where she and Hilly have been practicing for the Oaksey Races. Freddy passes eight with Grade A's and B's, but is more concerned that she has failed Spanish. Tom promptly gets the champagne. Hilly's cool reaction suggests disappointment that Freddy will disappear off to college. Freddy reassures her that she would have to take A levels first.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Bird-Man Of Alcatraz

Starring: Burt Lancaster, Telly Savalas and Karl Malden.

The amazing story of Robert Stroud who turned his life sentence in jail to an outstanding career in the study of birds and their illnesses.

Wednesday, April 14

8:30 A Chance In A Million

The Taxman Commeth

9:00 Local Programme

9:30 Documentary — After Us The Deluge

Water pollution

The Programme focuses on water pollution and how it affects the global climate.

10:00 News In English

10:20 2000 Malibu Road

The exclusive, insular community of Malibu beach provides a unique setting for this dramatic mini-series about four very different women who come together as housemates at 2000 Malibu Road. Jade O'Keefe, who owns the house, is a beautiful woman with a mysterious past and a shady present lifestyle that she is intent on changing. But someone wants to keep Jade trapped right where she is, or worse. Perry Quinn is a world-weary lawyer recovering from a shattering personal tragedy. For her, 2000 Malibu Road represents a chance to start fresh and forget the past. Joy and Lindsay are sisters who have come to Malibu to break into show business. Gorgeous and naive, Lindsay is an aspiring actress, while Joy acts as her manager and agent, and is willing to indulge in any deception necessary to help her younger sister achieve success. Four unique women, seemingly with nothing in common except the passion, intrigue, mystery and adventure of life at 2000 Malibu Road.

Starring: Lisa Hartman Black, Drew Barrymore, Jennifer Beals, Tuesday Knight, Brian Bloom, Michael T. Weiss and Scott Bryce.

Nasrallah's works convey a world of dualities

By Stephanie Genkin

Special to the Jordan Times

FUHEIS — With the beauty of spring blooming around Amman, a drive through the countryside is just one way to behold a splendor of colours. The Balka's Art Gallery, situated amidst the strikingly rich landscape of Al Fuheis, offers an alternative experience in colour.

Mohammad Nasrallah's work, currently on display at the Balka's Gallery, is above all an experience in hues and tones. The powerful colours of his paintings seem to possess a life of their own, reaching out and captivating



Mohammad Nasrallah the viewer's emotions and imagination. Mr. Nasrallah aged 30, is

amongst the youngest painters in Jordan. He holds a degree from the Fine Arts Institute in Amman as well as a diploma from the Spanish Cultural Centre. His work has been exhibited in several cultural institutes in Amman.

An accomplished painter talented in the art of blending and balancing colours on the canvas, Mr. Nasrallah creates an atmosphere designed to heighten the senses.

His seascape paintings are characterised by cool and at times icy tones. Partial to vivid and chilled blues, the artist captures a sense of climate through water and waves familiar to anyone who

has spent time at the shore during the winter months.

Images of winter are also conveyed through thick stalks of dried branches positioned often in the foreground of the

ART REVIEW

painting, providing detail and texture. In a couple of works the parched shoots are centrally set in the midst of the frigid water serving as the painting's focal point.

While Mr. Nasrallah's series of seascapes convey a sense of space and solitude, his more abstract works, however, produce quite the

opposite effect.

Setting the canvas ablaze with predominantly vibrant reds and flecks of bright hues, the majority of the artist's paintings capture a world of chaos. Fully cloaked figures, which only reveal faces emerge from a clutter of papers. In many of Mr. Nasrallah's works sheets of paper are abundant, falling from the sky and littering nearly the entire canvas.

Much attention is given to detail, and the painting's intricate colours lend to the overall complexity of these works. In juxtaposition with the spacious and airy sea

settings, Mr. Nasrallah's abstract samples are congested and hectic.

In each of these paintings, individual components are not differentiated by colour. Instead, a blend of bright hues sweep over the canvas as a whole, varying in tone. The final product is dynamic.

Through the artist's application of colour and management of space the exhibition not only stimulates the senses, but also skillfully conveys a world of dualities.

The Balka's Gallery in Fuheis will be exhibiting the work of Mr. Nasrallah until April 10.



A painting by Mohammad Nasrallah

Artist burned works he could not live to finish

By Graham Heathcote

The Associated Press

LONDON — On Nov. 5, 1948, Georges Rouault took 315 of his 700 unfinished paintings to a factory in Montreuil-Sur-Bois, an eastern suburb of Paris, dumped them in a furnace and burned them.

The then 77-year-old artist told a photographer and court official who were present at the destruction of the artwork that he simply didn't have time to finish the works.

The French magazine *Esprit* wondered at the time if it was not a "dangerous precedent for a great creative artist to take upon himself the judgment of the ages, saving this work and destroying that one, leaving behind him no traces of doubts and hesitations through which the human side of the artist could be grasped."

But his daughter, Isabelle Rouault, said recently that her father's criterion was simply how much time he

would need to finish them. "His main concern with each was the stage of its progress," she said.

"My father was very critical of his own work, never satisfied, and he did not like to sell his pictures or even loan them."

"Rouault often spent 10 years on a painting, coming back to it again and again before signing it, so he was sure there was not enough time," said Fabrice Hergott who has organised a London exhibition of the French artist's early work from 1903 to 1920.

"Many artists destroy their work because they are dissatisfied with it or their ideas have changed when they return to unfinished canvases," said Simonetta Fraquelli who worked on the exhibition. "Francis Bacon, the British artist, destroyed his early works and Michelangelo left the sculpture in Milan known as the Rondanini Pieta unfinished. Maybe the burning

was a way for Rouault to complete his life as he saw it."

Despite the fire, there are between 2,700 and 3,000 Rouaults left in the world's museums and private collections, and another 900 unfinished, said Isabelle Rouault. Now 82, she was her father's secretary and catalogued his work.

At the end of 1956, eight years after the fire, Rouault gave up painting altogether. When he died two years later, three months before his 87th birthday, he was considered such an important figure that he was given a state funeral.

Rouault is best known for his pictures of Christ. Unlike the glossy images preferred in the 19th century, his depictions surprise and shock. His Christ is gloomy and full of foreboding, boldly outlined in heavy, black brushstrokes, like almost all Rouault's figures.

Rouault was born in a

terrible moment in French history, in a Paris cellar in May 1871 during a bombardment of the city by government forces crushing the Communist revolution known as the Paris Commune.

Judging by his paintings, Rouault had a dark view of life. His vision might be seen as an echo of the commune's end, when more people were executed by the government than in the reign of terror during the French Revolution.

Hergott described the painter's early work as anarchistic, related to nothing else that was being painted at the time. His subjects in those years were mainly prostitutes, clowns, circus riders, human-figure targets at fairs and people in the law courts — the accused, the lawyers and the judges.

There is nothing pretty about any of them. "The paintings close around the subjects like a

trap; and in the court rooms, accusers and accused are presented together without distinction between them," Hergott said.

Rouault was a friend of Henri Matisse. The two men had the same professor, Gustave Moreau, the painter of elaborate Biblical and mythological subjects whose Paris studio survives as a museum for his work, which he left to the nation.

Moreau was an important, lifelong influence on Rouault; so was the painter's apprenticeship in a stained-glass workshop. The heavy outlines of Rouault's figures resemble the lines of lead that hold painted glass pieces together in a window.

"Rouault's art was the most important thing in his life and he worked at it every day and often at night as well," said Hergott, 31, a curator at the Pompidou Centre in Paris where the exhibition was first displayed. "Rouault preferred to

paint on easily available materials like paper and card and he worked flat, on a table."

"His work was appreciated early in this century by some collectors and other artists. It wasn't difficult to put this exhibition together because owners mostly were happy to lend as there has been no big exhibition since the Paris retrospective in 1971 for what would have been Rouault's 100th birthday."

Rouault must have owed much of his success to his dealer, Ambroise Vollard, who championed the new. He staged the first solo exhibition of Paul Cezanne, gave money to Paul Gauguin to enable him to survive and exhibited Pablo Picasso's work as early as 1901.

"Vollard recognised Rouault as a great artist and bought everything in his studio in 1917. Rouault is appreciated in many countries and loans to this exhibition came from France, the

United States, Japan, Germany, Switzerland and a few from Ireland," Hergott said.

"I wasn't sure what they would look like until I saw them all together on the walls. I was surprised by their quality and intensity at the Pompidou Centre."

Hergott said the works showed that Rouault was not as religious as many thought. "He was better than that. He was more a religious anarchist. There is religion in the early works but it is not so visible as in the later ones."

Rouault lived in Provence, southern France, moving to Paris in World War II. The Germans who took over the house destroyed a lot of the paintings.

When Vollard died in 1939 after an auto crash, his heirs closed Rouault's studio in Vollard's house and Rouault had to go through legal channels for the return of his paintings. He won his case in 1947.

Hergott considers

Rouault's art difficult to appreciate.

"You mustn't judge it by appearance and subtlety but by structure as well. There is a strong relationship between form and subject. The aggression is very controlled. He had control Matisse but he was not as colourful like his friend."

Isabelle Rouault remembered her father as being particularly about allowing anyone to see his work.

"When he prepared a set of his paintings he would let any of us into the studio until he was ready to show them. We were all afraid to disturb him when he was painting," she said.

"In his later years allowed friends, critics, young painters to come to him, but only one at a time. He would talk a lot to them after a day of silence."

The 89 paintings and ceramics by Rouault at the Royal Academy of Art in Piccadilly through Jun

The weight of obesity

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — A hugely fat woman is trying to get into an old battered taxi. Someone is pushing her from behind; someone else is pulling her from inside; a group of bystanders urges her on — but the door of the cab does not open as widely as it should and, try as she might, the woman cannot squeeze past it. Puffing and panting, red with shame, she remains stuck where she is, not knowing what to do. The scene, at once comic and tragic, takes place in a residential street in the Egyptian capital, where director Ekbal Al Charoni is shooting her latest movie.

Literally translated from its Arabic title "Horafa Esma' El Fachal," the movie is called A Fable Named Failure. In order to play the leading role, actress Esaad Younes had to agree to put on 80 kilos (175 lbs) — with the help of special effects and make-up — and appear before her many fans completely disguised by huge puffy cheeks and a vast double chin.

The movie is due to be shown on Egyptian television screens later this year. But even before it goes on the air it is already making waves. For two years, Ms. Charoni, a film-maker for the national television network, battled to

get the go-ahead to tackle this subject. The film is based on a short story by Abdul Wahab Motawa, who describes the real-life experience of a woman who became monstrously fat in a crisis of despair.

The first hurdle facing Ms. Charoni was that backers feared the movie would hurt the feelings of the many overweight women to be found in the Middle East. Help came from the film's leading lady Esaad Younes, an actress who combines her dramatic art with a caustic wit and considerable skill as a writer. Together, the director and the actress succeeded in convincing the television station managers that not only was the film entirely possible, using good make-up and special effects, but that it could prove to be an important first step for many overweight women in their struggle to overcome obesity.

With shooting now in full swing, Younes is virtually unrecognisable under her nightmare make-up, her face fleshy and aged, her vast body encased in a huge shapeless robe which fails to hide the extent of her bulk. "I agreed to do this movie because I could not care less whether I look beautiful or slim on screen, so long as the role has some substance,"

she said, with customary frankness. "This role was exactly the kind of thing I was looking for — something different, based on a true story which could happen to almost any of us women here."

In the East, explains Younes, women are all too often considered a burden for their families who view them either as a future wife or a future mother, without taking into account any personal or intellectual aspirations they might have. "In our families, any concern about giving daughters some form of cultural development is brushed aside by the overwhelming desire to see them settled and married as soon as possible," said the actress. "Experience shows that young women who are pushed into ill-matched marriages, and who have no means at all of expressing their true selves, become addicted to food, just as other people become hooked on sniffing glue or on drink. They eat because they find a kind of consolation in food and, at the same time, subconsciously, they are punishing — by making it shapeless — this body which is the only thing that counts in the eyes of the people around them. In fact, these women are punishing themselves because in the repeated failure of marriage they become convinced that they have themselves failed in the only role that society has given them."

Marwa, the character Younes plays in the film, is a brilliant university student, highly gifted in languages. In Germany, where she is preparing her doctorate, she begins churning over memories of broken love affairs, further depressed by the crushing solitude of being so far from home. She gets up in the middle of the night, goes to the fridge and seeks consolation in a midnight feast. She begins to put on weight. When she returns home to Egypt, she is barely recognisable. She has already put on 40 kilos.

"Prey to night eating syndrome"

"She becomes prey to what

is known as the night eating syndrome," said Younes. "And it gets worse. She puts on 80, 100, 120, 140 kilos (176, 220, 264, 308 lbs)...she becomes a monster, but she is married off all the same to a man who humiliates her and beats her."

The husband, played by one of Egypt's most promising young actors Mamdouh Wafi, is a character who suffers from sexual problems and is only seeking an alibi in his marriage. Marwa's existence becomes doubly equivocal. But in the end she finds the strength to break the spiral and painfully, slowly, take control of her own destiny. "In actual fact, it's all a question of will," said Younes. This young actress knows what she is talking about. She too suffered from obesity at a certain time of her life. It was just after the birth of her last child. When she came out of the clinic she was 22 kilos overweight (48 lbs). The reasons for her weight problem were different from those of the character she plays in the film. But the effects were the same. She recalls only too well that sense of heaviness, of difficulty in moving or of going up or down stairs. She remembers the horror of the dresses which no longer zipped up and the jackets which no longer buttoned up, the fat which weighed down her very spirit.

Younes lived a whole year in this state. She tried everything — diets based on bananas and others based on boiled rice, pills that suppressed the appetite, others which stimulated the kidneys, acupuncture and even charlatans. Nothing worked. She even thought of liposuction, but this surgical method is only effective in removing ugly fatty deposits of a relatively limited size. It can do nothing to get rid of an entire layer of blubber. Younes finally came to understand that she would never get her figure back unless she changed her eating habits. "The truth is that the recipe for losing weight is really very simple," she said. "All you

have to do is close your mouth! The rest is all a lot of eyewash. The secret is to eat little, very little, and never outside mealtimes." Younes won her battle. Today she is back to her old weight — 63 kilos (138 lbs), or at least she is off screen. On the set, she is forced to relive the nightmare of being overweight.

It is not an altogether pleasant experience, as she readily admits. "With all this make-up and these layers of foam rubber wrapped around my body I feel exactly as I did when I really was fat," she said sighing. The difficult task of designing the special effects for the film was handled by Rahmy, a well-known figure in the movie world who created Boughy and Tamtam, two puppets loved by Egyptian children as much as Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse are in the West.

Under the blinding lights of the film crew, in a hired apartment filled with kitsch ornaments and furnishings, shooting is in progress on one of the film's most distressing scenes. It will be remarkable if this one escapes the censor's knife in Egypt. The fearful wife is vainly trying to pacify her irascible husband, whose anger becomes more and more violent the more his wife is kind and submissive. He gives her a resounding slap; Marwa staggers and



One of Egypt's leading actresses, despair causes her to become Esaad Younes, is Marwa, whose obese

collapses on a chair, which in turn almost collapses beneath her ample weight. The scene is both hilariously funny and dramatically poignant, and it is in this mix that the movie's strength lies.

The director made a bold but successful choice in selecting an actress who is best known for her comic roles to play a character who spends much of the movie in the depths of despair. "It is not the first time I have chosen a comic actor to play a serious role," said Ms. Charoni. "In fact, Esaad Younes is a great actress, completely in control of all her facial expressions, even beneath

that horrible mask and all those layers of synthetic foam."

But what do Egypt's real-life plump women think of the idea of making a movie about such a subject? "I don't see why anyone should want to go to the trouble of making a film about us," said Azza B. "I have no problems about being overweight and my husband is proud of my ample figure. It shows I'm healthy."

Azza's reaction is that of a gradually disappearing class of women. Others asked to comment said they wished the movie would give them the recipe on how to become slim. Most women appeared skeptical about the movie's happy ending, even though the finale is strictly based on fact. "They shouldn't tell such lies. No one can lose 80 kilos," said Sohalia C., who weighs 97 kilos and whose sister, a hefty 150 kilos, has spent a fortune on slimming cures without the slightest success. All these women admit that for them food is a type of refuge which they turn to when they feel lonely and unhappy. "There is nothing so strange about that," said Sohalia. "If you consider that from the time we were children we were rewarded with a chocolate and punished by being made to go without dessert. That instilled reflexes in us without our even being aware of it, so that we stuff ourselves full of sweet things every time there

is the slightest problem in daily life."

Director Charoni is her movie is stirring up controversy. "I'm very pleased that people are talking about Marwa, not for my own glory but because she wants to motivate and help thousands of women who — perhaps even without being aware of it — are in the same situation as my heroine. All too often women become fat because they are unhappy. The solution lies in going up to this and trying to change the situation. Fat or thin, life takes on meaning and the chance one will lose weight without noticing it."

As Ms. Charoni puts it, the final touches to her another fat lady, Swiss wife turned writer Rose Buri, is in Egypt to promote her best-seller *Fat Beautiful*. Mrs. Buri fought a lifelong battle against being overweight, all her efforts have been vain. Finally, she decided to write a book in which she claims to the right of every woman to be clever and successful. So far *Fat Beautiful* has sold 100,000 copies and Mrs. Buri has become an overnight success. Will her new-found help her become the sly-like figure she dreamed of? To judge the smiling face of this clearly happy lady, the last thing she has on her mind is World News Link.



Esaad Younes' makeup and the special effects required to make her look hugely overweight are designed and applied by Rahmy, creator of two popular puppets in Egypt



Movie director Ekbal Al Charoni overcame technical difficulties and fears of viewer sensitivity to make A Fable Named Failure based on a true story

Russians start human foetal tissue transplant operations

By Elena Fleck
Reuter

MOSCOW — Svetlana Andreyanova, who had diabetes for 27 of her 45 years, is one of Russia's first sufferers to receive human foetal tissue transplants.

Ms. Andreyanova says the 3-minute session in which she received seven injections at a Moscow hospital along with three other patients, is her only hope.

"If you have been ill for a long time, you constantly wonder what's going to happen to you. You might get gangrene and lose your legs, you get black-outs, maybe you'll lose your sight," she said. "I was prepared to do anything to avoid it."

"The treatment is not immoral," she said. "It's terrible when a woman loses her child. But if it (the foetus)

can be used to alleviate the pain of sick people, then why not?"

Ms. Andreyanova does not expect a full recovery. But perhaps the treatment will reduce her daily insulin doses and make her less susceptible to the decline in her health that she fears.

The cell tissue, which she hopes can help her, came from the foetal tissue bank at the International Institute of Biological Medicine, set up to research and provide human foetal tissue transplant operations for a wide range of diseases.

It opened in January to run a new government programme based at the Centre for Perinatology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Moscow where hundreds of women go for abortions every year.

"We have a great advantage over the West," said Michael Molnar, a U.S. plas-

tic surgeon from Hollywood, who calls himself the "organising spirit" and set the project up with a group of Russian consultants.

"In the West it is possible to research human foetal transplants, but difficult to put into practice because foetal tissue is always in very short supply," he said. "Here we already have enough tissue to treat 400 to 600 patients."

Western scientific research has shown that human foetal tissue, which adapts uniquely when transplanted into a patient's existing tissue, may help to treat many incurable diseases.

And in Russia there is no shortage of foetal tissue. Abortion, legal since 1931, is still the commonest and most acceptable form of contraception.

Unlike in the West, after 74 years of the Communists'

official state policy of atheism, Russians are less likely to raise moral objections, Dr. Molnar says.

The institute started building up its foetal tissue bank last November. Once a woman from the abortion clinic consents, her foetus is rushed to the lab for AIDS and other tests.

If healthy, the cell tissue is frozen in giant vats at a temperature of minus 196 degrees Celsius (minus 320.8 degrees Fahrenheit) to keep it "alive" and usable for up to a year.

In the West, particularly the United States, human foetal research has been attacked by the religious lobby as immoral. In 1988 former President Ronald Reagan, under pressure from the Pro-Life Movement, banned government funding of this research.

President Bill Clinton has

lifted the ban, but the debate about whether it is morally or medically justified rages on.

Dr. Molnar's project was first turned down in China, despite the fact that more human foetal transplants have taken place there than anywhere else. In 1988 he almost got it off the ground in Yugoslavia. In the former Czechoslovakia the church opposed the project.

Dr. Molnar says Russia is the best place for his project. There are lots of under-employed scientists, research is cheap and the government has placed the Centre for Perinatology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the project's disposal.

In 1991, 3,600,000 women had abortions and the birth rate dropped by 25 per cent as more and more women sought terminations, fearing they could not feed their offspring.

"Women have abortions because they want to, no one is forcing them to," Dr. Molnar said. "In Russia women come to this centre because they get the best attention here."

"Our work here is unique. In the West there are different ethical guidelines," he said. "These are justified to regulate the system of private practice, but in Russia there is a free state health care system and abortions are free."

Dr. Molnar stressed that the project was government funded, there was no profiteering, no businessmen were involved and they did not plan to sell foetal material in the West or Russia.

At present the institute has about 50 specialists, including surgeons treating diabetes, male and female sterility and Down's Syndrome, and scientists researching non-heal-

ing fractures, Alzheimer's disease, arteriosclerosis and leukaemia.

A course of treatment with the International Institute of Biological Medicine costs \$500 for Russians, \$1,000 for citizens of former Soviet republics. Foreigners pay \$8,000 compared to about \$75,000 in the United States, Dr. Molnar said.

The institute was set up as a Russian joint-stock company and opened with the backing of the Ministry of Health. It has exclusive rights in Russia to develop research into transplants of human foetal tissue as a form of medical treatment.

So far it has 20 Russian patients — four paying, the rest taking part in research for free treatment. The first foreign patient, a three-and-a-half year old girl with Down's Syndrome from Puerto Rico, is due to arrive

next month. The company's shares can be sold on the open market and are divided up. A group of Western doctors who have formed a company registered in Ireland called Biocellar Research Ltd have 51 per cent and the Centre of Perinatology owns the rest.

They are looking for investors to help raise more money for their own premises — a building next door to the centre, now under construction — with a research laboratory and wards for patients.

There are plans to hold an international conference on transplants of human foetal tissue in Moscow in September.

"This is just the beginning," said Dr. Molnar. "If all goes well this could be one of the major centres in the world for human foetal transplant research and treatment."

Progress expected in next 2 years against major tropical diseases

By David Hiscoc
The Associated Press

ASHINGTON — Humans losing the battle against the major tropical diseases, scientists see hope in new drugs, paint laced with bug killers and a little help from witch doctors.

Tropical diseases that affect lands inhabited by half the world's population are killing 2 million people a year, deaths will double and malaria, possibly quadruple in two decades if new drugs are not taken, according to the World Health Organisation's top expert on tropical diseases.

And travel to warm climates is getting more dangerous as the diseases and the pests that carry them build resistance to existing drugs or insecticides, said Dr. E. Godal, director of a special Disease Research programme for the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva.

"But the prospects for combating these diseases are very exciting," said Dr. Godal in an interview.

Arteether, a new drug developed from a Chinese herb, is the "most rapidly acting anti-malarial drug ever known" and could reduce mortality by half, Dr. Godal said. It is expected to be registered in France next year and available for disease control by 1995.

"We have new tools in the pipeline and we are finding ways of using the tools in better ways than before," he said.

Dr. Godal predicted that with proper research, a malaria vaccine could be developed before the end of the decade. Malaria affects 270 million people in more than 100 countries, with about 90 per cent of the victims in sub-Saharan Africa, according to WHO. Malaria kills more than one million people annually in Africa.

Reports by Dr. Godal and

other disease experts published in the April 5 issue of the Medical Journal of Australia and released in Washington assess progress against malaria and seven other major tropical diseases.

More than half a billion people, or about one in every 10 people on Earth, suffer from one or more of the diseases.

The reports say sharp declines are expected within the next decades in leprosy, Chagas disease and onchocerciasis, known as river blindness, although none of them can be totally eradicated. Effective new drugs and methods have already been developed against the disease, Dr. Godal said.

But progress against others could require a doubling of the current \$33 million dollar annual budget of the Disease Research Agency, which is funded by WHO and the World Bank, Dr. Godal said.

The most serious, in addition to malaria, are:

— Snail fever, or schistosomiasis, is carried by water snails and infects more than 200 million people in Asia, Africa and Latin America. It is believed to kill 200,000 people a year.

— Leishmaniasis, which is actually a range of diseases transmitted by blood-sucking sandflies and found in the Middle East, the subcontinent and Mediterranean regions. Its worst form killed 80,000 people in 1992.

— African sleeping sickness, or trypanosomiasis, which is transmitted by tsetse flies and affects more than 100,000 people in 36 African countries, killing 25,000 a year.

— Lymphatic filariasis, carried by mosquitoes, with some 32 million people suffering from its effects, including elephantiasis of limbs or genitalia, and 1 million severely disabled.

In addition to new drugs being tested now, other promising approaches to the

diseases include bed nets impregnated with mosquito repellent, insecticide-carrying paints for rural homes and programmes that teach traditional midwives, faith healers and witch doctors to incorporate proven anti-disease drugs and methods in their practices, the reports say.

A major problem is overcoming superstition, such as the belief that a child suffering from malaria fever is possessed by evil spirits.

"We have options here either to teach the traditional healers to give antimalarial treatment or the mothers," he said. "We have had train-

ing courses, and traditional healers are at the top of the class."

Dr. Godal said the tropical disease effort will be shifted to "more immediate, practical methods."

For example, he said, studies have discovered that by simply asking children

whether they have symptoms of a disease often can be as effective in determining the extent of an illness as taking expensive tests.

And, soaking bednets in insecticide has proven effective in reducing child deaths from malaria by as much as 50 per cent.

Cancer fear prevents some women from getting checkups

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Many women with strong family histories of breast cancer become so paralysed with fear of dying from the disease that they fail to get exams that could save their lives, a survey shows.

If caught early, even inherited forms of breast cancer can be cured. Yet the report found that those at highest risk often do the least to detect tumours when they are still treatable.

"Some women say they are too afraid to even examine their breasts" themselves, said Kathryn Kash. "They are afraid they will find something."

About 5 per cent of breast cancer is thought to result from a gene that is passed from mothers or fathers to their daughters.

People are suspected to be

at risk of this inherited form of cancer if they have two or more close relatives — a mother, sister or grandmother — with breast cancer, or one of their close relatives developed breast cancer in both breasts before menopause.

Such people have at most a 50 per cent chance of having inherited the cancer-causing gene. Those who actually have the gene face about an 85 per cent risk of developing breast cancer.

Such women are typically urged to have annual mammograms after age 40 to check their breasts for tumours, to get regular breast exams from doctors and to feel their breasts monthly for lumps.

In a survey of 420 of these high-risk women, Ms. Kash found that only half got annual mammograms or reg-

ular doctor checkups for breast cancer, and only about one-quarter examined their own breasts monthly.

Ms. Kash, a psychologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York, presented her findings at a recent meeting of the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Victor Vogel of M.D. Anderson Cancer Centre in Houston said he has seen similar instances of fear preventing routine cancer screening.

"Fear immobilises these women," Dr. Vogel said. "They are so afraid that nothing happens. They stop doing breast self exams and getting mammograms."

Ms. Kash said that many of these women are petrified because they overestimate their risk of getting cancer. Often they believe their risk is 100 per cent, when in truth

it is 20 per cent or 30 per cent.

Among other findings: — In some of these cancer families, the disease is a kind of open secret, never acknowledged or discussed by those at risk.

— Some women believe they will get breast cancer at precisely the same age their mother or sister was diagnosed with the disease.

— Feelings of guilt may occur when cancer does not strike.

— Sometimes women tell themselves they will be able to avoid the disease if they have fewer children than their mother had.

Ms. Kash has begun a pilot programme to see if women can be made less anxious and more willing to do something about their risk.

Studies show how AIDS virus hides in body for years

By Jim Fuller

WASHINGTON — Scientists say new findings show that the AIDS virus is never idle and can hide for years in the body's lymph nodes launching a final deadly attack on its victims.

Studies published in the March 25 issue of the journal Nature show that the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS can congregate in the body's lymphoid organs, such as the tonsils, spleen, adenoids and lymph nodes, where it steadily infects key blood cells and breaks down cells that filter out viruses.

Eventually, the filter cells in the lymph organs are destroyed and infected blood cells spill out into the body's circulation system, leading to the collapse of the body's immune system, usually followed by death from some infectious disease.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and a co-author of one of the studies, said the discovery answers one of the key mysteries about the course of the AIDS disease. Patients with AIDS often live without HIV symptoms for up to 10 years.

"Since there was little virus in the blood, it was a puzzle why this process inevitably progressed and occurred," Dr. Fauci said. "The bottom

line of the study is that this virus is present in the lymph nodes and it is actively detected in the blood."

Researchers said the findings show that drugs must be found to combat the AIDS virus from the moment of diagnosis and that therapy cannot be relaxed during periods when there are no symptoms.

In another development, NIAID reported that it will begin human testing of a new drug that has been shown to be a powerful killer of the AIDS virus in laboratory experiments.

The agency announced on March 24 that it will enroll up to 80 patients infected with the AIDS virus in clinical trials of a drug called U-90, 152.

Researchers said that the new drug, which has successfully sterilised cell cultures infected with the AIDS virus in test tube experiments, works differently from currently licensed AIDS drugs.

Three anti-viral drugs have been licensed to combat HIV in the United States. These are Zidovudine, or AZT; Didanosine, or DDI; and Zalcitabine, or DDC. Each of these drugs combats HIV by blocking the action of an enzyme, reverse transcriptase, that the virus uses to reproduce.

The new drug also works against reverse transcriptase,

but it attacks the enzyme at a different site. Officials said it is possible that using U-90, 152 in combination with one of the other drugs would be more effective against HIV than any of the drugs alone.

Dr. H. Clifford Lane of NIAID said that this combination could overcome HIV's ability to mutate and become resistant to current drugs within six to 12 months.

"For HIV to become resistant to two classes of drugs, it would have to develop mutations at two sites (within its

genetic pattern)," Dr. Lane said in a prepared statement. "The chance of one virus developing both mutations and still being able to replicate is quite small and becomes even smaller when a third drug is added to the combination treatment."

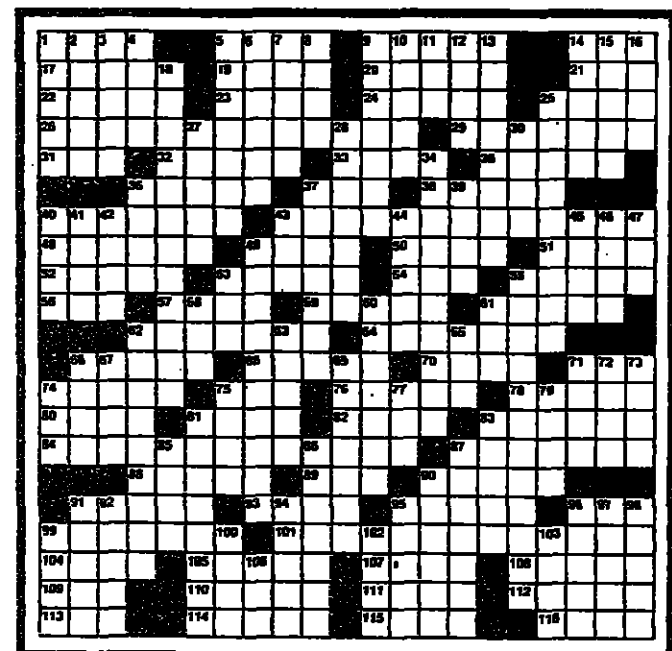
In the first phase of the human trials, patients will be randomly assigned to receive either a three-drug combination of U-90, 152, AZT and DDI, or a two-drug combination of AZT and DDI — U.S. Information Agency.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

COOKBOOK DIRECTIONS
By Olive Dunn

ACROSS
1. The first step
5. Tasty steps
9. Give a sudden
14. Chat
17. Step of
19. Shadow
20. Court official
21. Sir
22. Pan-fry
23. Turn — (meat)
24. Cook's of the
25. Cooking
26. Dried up the
27. Brown potatoes
28. You get
29. Viewpoint
30. Option word

DOWN
1. Mysterious
2. Stand — of
3. Fine accuracy
4. Loudness
5. Very excited
6. Gadget part
7. Lens
8. Shadow
9. English person
10. Hair
11. Melody
12. Spicy
13. Judge
14. Word
15. Rondo
16. First a means of
17. Understanding
18. Cornet



Last Week's Cryptograms
1. Able head chief dished out fine meal to church band members.
2. Pray tell, what can be as warming or welcoming on a very rainy day as a hot, jumbled stew?
3. She may have a pale city hall marriage: it's her civil rite.
4. Long causeway was flooded because of very high water driven by terrible hurricane.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. DOWNBEETHYEX XHPS Z NANTW QOQLOW
XAXZ ATE UTX HU SRPSWBEQ NEEPS LO
XWZNSO XH ATE ABQSWBQ
DWAUOEETHY. —By Rita Salvato
2. PEBBEL MTYLN PEPYLZ DA KSEON CLUM
DEBZ KOMFY KUEFY PASTL CASTL. —By Ed Huddleston
3. HUNTS FTXIB:RD FXIBIRD HOU TNLXS
FOXIBIRD ERDU DLIF FLXBIRD HEDDO
FTXIBNLX DU OEB BFUNBX? —By Frank N. Stein
4. CYNR GYSPN INDIAN FLOXP SRPD YSX
IOSXPSRN GDOAU. ZDOFLRN USURP
ZMEDO PYN FOMEN. —By Eugene T. Malachuk

By James Barrick

ACROSS
1. Actors' place
2. Merchandise
3. Wide awake
4. Find left with
5. Expert
6. Medical judge
7. Business scheme
8. Salamander
9. Protective covering
10. Expression

DOWN
1. Put one within
2. Nymph who loved
3. Simple
4. Liquid to extract
5. Grumpy
6. Grumpy
7. Tied with a cord
8. Across prefix
9. Unbroken



SOLUTIONS
OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. P.T. Barnum of Barnum and Bailey's Circus. He invited the people to judge the contest.
2. Burma.
3. Left.
4. The study of antibiotics.
5. Marbles made of steel, agate and coloured and clear glass respectively.
6. Mammals which lay eggs.
7. Manzanera River.
8. Madagascar.

PUZZLES

ENTertainment
ESSentialNESS
UNDerground
BLEachABLE
OUTShout
BEDauBED
MANxMAN.



Palestinians report breakthrough deal

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan Times.

If the Israelis fail to make this "written" commitment, the April 16 talks in Damascus are expected to come up with a negative verdict on the issue of Arab participation, said the PLO source.

"The Arab position will be unyielding," Mr. R'afat said, confirming predictions made by other Arab negotiators and participants at the last Damascus meeting of foreign ministers and peace negotiators.

Knowing that the Arabs will either all go or not go at all has given strength to the negotiating position of what Palestinians call the "weakest" of all parties "namely the Palestinians."

"The Americans have become aware that this is not just an issue of 'convincing the Palestinians to go'," said Palestinian negotiator Ghassan Khatib on his way back from Washington and Tunis to the occupied territories. "The Americans realise that there is a genuine chance that if nothing changes before April 20 there will be an Arab suspension of the peace talks," Mr. Khatib said.

This awareness, argues Mr. R'afat, makes the chances of an Israeli agreement to a commitment on some major issues all the more likely.

Senior U.S. State Department officials have said Israel would unveil a package of gestures and actions in the occupied territories as soon as the Palestinians say "yes" to returning to the talks. "Verbal promises have proved fruitless in the past and we no longer trust them," said Mr. Khatib.

Mr. Khatib stressed that the Palestinians wanted "written commitments."

According to Mr. R'afat, an American declaration, which would be made simultaneously to that of the Israelis and Palestinians, would go "one step further than the Israeli declaration."

"The Americans will clearly say that they are committed to following up the terms of reference and mention certain points in particular, mainly Jerusalem," added the PLO source who preferred anonymity.

Palestinian negotiators have said that they want Israeli commitments not to use expulsions as a policy towards Palestinians, guarantees on the issue of human rights and an agreement to use U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 as the main terms of reference.

"We got nowhere with the Israelis in the last 15 months and it's about time that they commit themselves to the points of refer-

ence as outlined in the invitations to the Madrid talks," Mr. Khatib said. The issue of Jerusalem, an issue that the Israelis have categorically refused to discuss, "is included in the terms of reference. The terms of reference actually say that Jerusalem is negotiable," Mr. Khatib pointed out.

Talks in Washington next week by Arab delegations from Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are expected to strengthen the impression of a "united Arab stand" on the issue of returning to the peace talks.

The Palestinian expellee issue worked together with a variety of points concerning individual and joint Arab interests swayed the mood at the Damascus meeting last week and allowed for the joint position, say Palestinians who attended the meeting.

An accelerated phased return of the expellees in South Lebanon is expected to follow the agreement to return to the peace talks by the Palestinians.

An Arab foreign ministers conference scheduled to take place in Cairo April 18 is also expected to confirm that the Arab countries will go back to the multilateral talks or will suspend participation for yet another round.

"All depends on the willingness of Israel to agree to let us be equal partners in these talks," Mr. R'afat said.

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States and Egypt see "an historic opportunity to achieve real progress in the Arab-Israeli peace process in 1993," President Bill Clinton asserted Tuesday.

"This opportunity must not be missed," Mr. Clinton declared. "All parties must live up to their responsibilities for making peace."

With Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at his side, Mr. Clinton told a joint news conference at the White House that the task immediately ahead "is to broaden the circle of peace, recognising the principles that underlie the peace process — territory for peace, realisation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, security for all parties, and full and real peace."

The peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, the president said, is a "cornerstone of our common effort to attain a just and lasting settlement based upon U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338."

A senior administration official told reporters the parties involved have suggested interest in "pre-consultation" in advance of the scheduled April 20 resumption of the peace negotiations in Washington. "There is a common view," he said, "that it is important to end the hiatus in the talks."

The official said there is agreement that a prolonged hiatus could narrow the political options open to the parties, especially if violence on the ground continues or escalates.

The official alluded to a "package" of arrangements worked out to persuade the Palestinians to return to the bargaining table, but he would not elaborate further. Israel's expulsion of some 400 Palestinians has contributed to reports that the Palestinians will boycott the scheduled talks.

"The United States," the official said, "has made a maximum and significant effort to accommodate the concerns and needs of the Palestinians. President Mubarak is going back confident that what is being offered is so significant that the Palestinians should say 'yes' to coming to the next round."

Asked if Israel had agreed to speed the timetable for return of the expellees, the official said he would not reveal the details of the package. Tel Aviv has already agreed to permit all of the exiles to return to the occupied territories from southern Lebanon by the end of 1993. "There are assurances for the Palestinians that are very comprehensive and meaningful," he acknowledged, "that should allow them to say 'yes' to the next round." He said "it's correct to say that the package would come into effect once the Palestinians make the decision to come to the table and the actions are sequential."

Mr. Clinton emphasized that this is "a critical period for the Middle East." He said 1993 "can

U.S. and Egypt see historic opportunity

determine whether the new century is consumed by old enemies or used to unlock the human and material potential of its people. Our historic mission is to make this a year of peace."

Mr. Mubarak pledged his cooperation to help make 1993 the year of breakthrough in the peace process, even expressing hope that a solution would be reached before year's end.

Mr. Clinton told a questioner he based his hope for progress on the "extraordinary efforts" of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and on "encouraging comments" by Syria President Hafez Assad. Mr. Mubarak said the Arab leaders he has talked to, including Palestinians, "want to reach peace as quickly as possible" to lift the standard of living of their people.

Mr. Clinton declared human rights must be part of the peace negotiations. "There won't be a peace in the Middle East unless those issues are addressed," he said. "It's very important to me, and I think they'll be at the forefront of the process."

Mr. Mubarak said he plans to talk to Mr. Rabin again following his return to Cairo, and he praised Washington for its "maximum" effort to advance the peace process.

Both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Mubarak underscored their commitment to frustrate any efforts Iraq might make to deploy weapons of mass destruction. And Mr. Clinton said both he and Mr. Mubarak are determined that "Iraq will comply fully with all relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions."

Mr. Mubarak accused Iran of attempting to destabilise his country, but he expressed confidence in Cairo's ability to prevail over what he termed Tehran's attempts to manipulate reaction to his programme of economic reform. Mr. Clinton added that both he and Mr. Mubarak will "counter Iran's involvement in terrorism and its active opposition to the Middle East peace process."

Mr. Clinton noted that both Egypt and the United States have suffered the "tragic consequences" of terrorism and "are absolutely determined to oppose the cowardly cruelty of terrorists wherever we can."

The senior official described the leaders' conversation on Iran as "initial," saying the discussion did not involve "specific next steps, but (represented) more an exchange of views on what the threat is, what the activities are, and what needs to be done, both in terms of bilateral policies and multilaterally, in terms of international cooperation, to be able to limit and contain Iran's negative policies of destabilisation, supporting terrorism, and opposition — in word and in deed — to the peace process."

He said the two countries are "entering a discussion phase as to what can

feasibly be done."

Mr. Clinton denounced the "intolerant agenda" of religious extremists, and he promised to enhance cooperation with Egypt in combating that and other forms of terrorism. The president revealed he had ordered a review of what had been done with Egyptian intelligence data about a network of fundamentalist religious extremists in the United States after Mr. Mubarak told the New York Times that the World Trade Centre bombing might have been followed up more aggressively.

The president said it would not be appropriate for him to discuss what steps he might be planning to counter Iran's support of terrorism.

Mr. Clinton told a questioner the United States will most likely seek tighter sanctions against Libya unless the Libyan intelligence agents charged in the Un-

ited States and Scotland with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 are extradited for trial in a legitimate court.

Later that afternoon, President Mubarak had meetings with Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen, Secretary of Defence Les Aspin and the editorial board of the Washington Post. He was scheduled to depart Washington Wednesday evening.

The Egyptian president began his official talks in Washington April 5 in separate meetings with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, Senate majority leader George Mitchell, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Michel Camdessus, and was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Vice President Al Gore.

Following his April 5 meeting with Mr. Christopher, the State Department released a statement

saying that the two "had a warm, friendly and productive meeting on a wide range of issues."

"Most of their discussion centred on the Arab-Israeli peace process," the statement said. "President Mubarak and Secretary Christopher also discussed regional security, including the Persian Gulf, and the threat posed by both Iran and Iraq. They also discussed Libya, and Pan Am 103, and counter-terrorism cooperation," the statement said.

Following the White House meetings between the two presidents, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa went to the State Department for a separate meeting with Mr. Christopher.

With journalists in the room, Mr. Christopher thanked Mr. Moussa for the "tremendous help he has been giving the peace process." Christopher said he first met Mr. Moussa on his trip to the region

Sudan says Egypt blocking end to row

(Continued from page 1)

an unlikely American military intervention in the south, but added that his government would seek American help in rehabilitating the war-ravaged south as well as legal advice on running a projected federation.

Gen. Bashir, however, played down the importance of a message he received from U.S. President Bill Clinton Monday, saying the letter was a routine one and included "nothing worth mentioning." He said the letter included a U.S. assertion that its relations with Khartoum will not improve until Sudan improve its human rights record, initiate democratic reforms and "moves away from terrorism."

American embassy sources in Khartoum told the Jordan Times that the U.S. was non-committal on Sudan's request to help rehabilitate the south, conditioning any role in the

peace talks on the approval of all sides to the conflict.

The sources confirmed that in the message, the U.S. pressed Sudan for improved human rights record and abandonment of terrorism.

Gen. Bashir rejected claims that the conflict in the south was a religious war saying that it was a political dispute that dates back to pre-independent Sudan.

The conflict first erupted in 1955 but was halted in 1972 when a peace agreement between the two warring factions was reached. It erupted anew in 1983 after the government of deposed Sudanese President Ja'far Numeiri introduced Islamic law.

Gen. Bashir and other Sudanese officials denied charges that Sudan was providing safe havens to "terrorist" groups. They invited international agencies to visit Sudan and conduct their own investigations.

Gen. Bashir also denied

charges of ethnic cleansing or torture in Sudan, rejecting charges of widespread human rights abuses.

The Sudanese leader said Sudan was not militarily cooperating with Iran, adding that Khartoum's relations with Tehran were normal.

"We do not have any special relations with Iran in the military and security fields," Gen. Bashir, dressed in battlefield military uniform, told reporters. He denied the presence of any foreign military personnel in the country.

The Sudanese leader said Sudan would not allow political parties to operate in the country because political pluralism had proven its failure in Sudan.

"The Sudanese people have rejected military dictatorship, one party rule and political pluralism," he said. The country is conducting what it calls "national conference" through which it holds election at district, governorate and national level.

"There is a difference between political pluralism and freedom. You cannot curb the freedom of the Sudanese," he said.

Gen. Bashir said presidential elections are expected to be held in 1995 after regional elections are completed.

After the elections, he said, the Revolutionary Command Council, which he heads, will have no role to play in Sudanese politics.

World Bank pledges continued backing

(Continued from page 1)

Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, conceded that the economic growth of Jordan in the past two years could be a short-term phenomenon since it was largely due to a construction boom in the wake of the return home of hundreds of thousands of expatriates as well as a good agricultural harvest in 1992.

Noting that Jordan continued to carry a heavy burden of foreign debts, which warrants reforms to ensure continued support from donors, Mr. Koch-Weser pledged continued World Bank backing for the Kingdom's efforts.

"We stand ready to continue to muster support for Jordan from international donors," he said.

Although the World Bank is not directly involved in Jordan's efforts to reschedule its foreign debts, the international body's recommendations to the creditors is a crucial factor in the negotiations.

The World Bank has extended \$250 million in loans to help develop various sectors of the Jordanian economy since 1989, when the Kingdom launched its economic restructuring programme.

Mr. Koch-Weser said Jordan was to receive \$60 million in World Bank loans this year and approximately double the amount in 1994. Most of the amount for this year will be allocated to the health and transport sectors.

Speaking to the Jordan Times on the fringes of the Arab population conference in Amman, Mr. Koch-Weser said the reforms that Jordan has to implement include "efficient use of resources" — implicitly meaning, among other things, an increase in water and power

tariffs.

"Water is a scarce commodity in the region and it has to be used most efficiently," said Mr. Koch-Weser. "We were assured (by the government) that the measures would be adopted soon." He declined to go into details in line with the World Bank policy of leaving it to the concerned governments to do so.

But, he added, measures planned by the government include those aimed at "mitigating the social costs" to spare the poor hardships resulting from the reform programme.

In a regional context, the World Bank has launched a study on economic cooperation in the Middle East as part of the multilateral phase of Arab-Israeli peace talks, he said. He declined to elaborate, saying it was too premature to discuss the issue. But he affirmed that "there is a comprehensive approach" to the Israeli-occupied Arab territories in terms of sectoral studies and an overall consideration of the Palestinian economy.

The World Bank has come under criticism for what many see as its reluctance to approach the Palestinian economy in its entirety for fear of antagonising Israel, which has taken pains over the decades to ensure that the Palestinians in the occupied territories remained dependent on its economy.

Mr. Koch-Weser declined to specify what role Jordan could play in regional economic cooperation in a conflict-free Middle East. He would only say that Jordan "would in the years to come stand ready to reap the full benefits of peace and of economic, domestic and social reforms."

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'Politics hurting Italian economy'

ROME (R) — Italy's central bank chief said Wednesday that politicians must agree quickly on a stable and efficient government or risk squandering all the economic advantages of the lira's fall in value.

In one of his toughest statements to date on Italy's political crisis, Bank of Italy Governor Carlo Azeglio Ciampi said the country had little time in which to win back the confidence of investors both at home and abroad.

"We will lose this opportunity unless we can in a short time regain foreign and domestic confidence and get the certainty of continuity and efficiency in government action," he said in a speech to an Italian scientific body.

The lira slumped to more than 1,000 to the German mark late last week as markets feared the imminent collapse of Prime Minister Giuliano Amato's government under the weight of the country's corruption scandal.

Although the lira has recovered slightly to around 990, analysts say Italian financial markets will remain highly nervous until the political future becomes clearer.

Mr. Amato's administration has been reduced to a caretaker role until after the April 18 referendum on voting reform, following which political parties will seek to regroup around a new government to take the country to fresh elections.

Mr. Ciampi, who together with

Treasury Minister Piero Barucci had a rare pre-breakfast meeting with President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro Wednesday, said the drop in the lira had thrown Italy's debt-burdened economy a "lifeline."

Italy could take advantage of the lower value of the currency, which has fallen more than 30 per cent against the mark since last summer, to boost exports and production.

This offered a long-lasting solution to the problem of unemployment and would also make curing Italy's disastrous public finances less painful, he said.

But none of this would be possible unless financial markets were persuaded that Italy was on the road back to stability.

"In recent days, the government bond market and the lira have suffered tensions that are due to the uncertainties and doubts over the country's general situation — and not any worsening in domestic or international economic conditions," Mr. Ciampi

said. The governor dismissed any suggestions that the problem of Italy's state debt, amounting to more than the total annual output of the economy, could be resolved by exceptional measures such as freezing it.

Italy excluded "any extraordinary financial measures on (the) public debt," he said in the speech to the Accademia dei Lincei, one of Italy's most prestigious cultural and scientific bodies.

Italy also said Wednesday its overseas aid budget had been almost halved as part of a shakeup ordered after investigators uncovered a major scandal.

Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo told fellow ministers that following budget cuts, Italy would be able to spend 2.9 trillion lire (\$1.8 billion) on aid to the Third World in 1993 compared with a recent average of five trillion (\$3.14 billion) a year.

Atiqa says political differences are hindering inter-Arab trade

ABU DHABI (R) — Political differences among Arab states, especially after the Gulf war, are hindering inter-Arab trade, currently just a fraction of total trade.

"The biggest obstacle to inter-Arab trade is the political differences," said Ali Atiqa, director for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) regional bureau for Arab states.

"There is lack of harmony and uniformity with regard to their economic systems. The aftermath of the Gulf crisis has affected severely the political situation," he told Reuters Tuesday.

Dr. Atiqa spoke after a two-day meeting of Arab League ministers of trade, U.N. and Arab officials to set up an Arab trade bloc which would favour Arab products.

Osama Faqih, chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the Arab world's main financial institution, told a news conference Tuesday the meeting adopted eight steps to boost inter-Arab trade, which at \$10.2 billion in 1991 was about eight per cent of total Arab trade that year.

The recommendations included trade liberalisation, boosting exports among Arab countries, unifying tariffs, and giving preferential treatment to Arab exports.

Delegates included government officials from Jordan, Sudan and Yemen, countries whose relations worsened with Gulf Arab states over their support for Iraq during the 1991 Gulf war over Baghdad's occupation of Kuwait.

Dr. Atiqa said the recommendations would only work if the political atmosphere was right.

"In cases where the political system is functioning, these recommendations will apply. A physical problem is the productive bases are not sufficient in many countries," he said.

Three years ago the AMF set up a special fund to boost Arab economies by financing non-oil inter-Arab trade and credits have reached \$128 million.

Arab League countries have tried for decades to trade more with each other to strengthen their economies.

Referring to those efforts, Dr. Atiqa said, "the Gulf war has made it more difficult to work on what was before it."

Dr. Faqih said despite Arab

agreements in 1953, 1964, and 1981 to boost trade their efforts have effectively failed.

"It's no secret that these agreements have not achieved what they intended," and remained to a great extent as words on paper," Dr. Faqih told the meeting Monday.

Economists at the conference said Arab countries need to improve allocation of resources and privatise their economies.

A UNDP report said Arab economies were too heavily dependent on exports of raw materials to non-Arab countries. Gulf Arab economies especially are dominated by oil, but most have adopted policies to channel oil revenues into other export industries. Dr. Atiqa said UNDP and AMF would support the recommendations in a programme of technical aid and funding.

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets				
Currency	New York Close	Tel Aviv Close	London Close	Paris Close
	6/4/1993	7/4/1993		
Sterling Pound*	1.5153	1.5275		
Deutsche Mark	1.6109	1.6080		
Swiss Franc	1.4855	1.4840		
French Franc	5.4550	5.4440		
Japanese Yen	115.95	114.02		
European Currency Unit	1.2070	1.2081		

Eurocurrency Interest Rates				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.12	3.21	3.56
Sterling Pound	5.75	5.87	5.81	5.77
Deutsche Mark	8.12	7.81	7.43	6.81
Swiss Franc	5.12	4.87	4.62	4.44
French Franc	9.75	9.25	8.62	7.87
Japanese Yen	3.18	3.21	3.28	3.31
European Currency Unit	9.31	9.00	8.50	7.91

Precious Metals				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz
Gold	337.25	6.65	Silver	3.84

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin				
Currency	Bid	Offer	Currency	Bid
U.S. Dollar	0.6860	0.6880	U.S. Dollar	0.6860
Sterling Pound	1.0435	1.0485	Sterling Pound	1.0435
Deutsche Mark	0.4283	0.4262	Deutsche Mark	0.4283
Swiss Franc	0.4642	0.4619	Swiss Franc	0.4642
French Franc	0.1265	0.1259	French Franc	0.1265
Japanese Yen*	0.6011	0.6041	Japanese Yen*	0.6011
Dutch Guilder	0.3792	0.3811	Dutch Guilder	0.3792
Swedish Krona	0.0899	0.903	Swedish Krona	0.0899
Italian Lira*	0.0432	0.0434	Italian Lira*	0.0432
Belgian Franc	0.02074	0.02064	Belgian Franc	0.02074

Other Currencies				
Currency	Bid	Offer	Currency	Bid
Bahraini Dinar	1.7980	1.8420	Bahraini Dinar	1.7980
Lebanese Lira*	0.03865	0.04115	Lebanese Lira*	0.03865
Saudi Riyal	0.1826	0.1843	Saudi Riyal	0.1826
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2450	2.2850	Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2450
Qatari Riyal	0.1882	0.1858	Qatari Riyal	0.1882
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2170	Egyptian Pound	0.1950
Omani Riyal	1.7580	1.7820	Omani Riyal	1.7580
UAE Dirham	0.1858	0.1882	UAE Dirham	0.1858
Greek Drachma*	0.3135	0.3335	Greek Drachma*	0.3135
Cypriot Pound	1.4035	1.4335	Cypriot Pound	1.4035

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market*				
Index	5/4/1993	Close	6/4/1993	Close
All-Share	195.10		194.92	
Banking Sector	134.66		134.83	
Insurance Sector	214.19		214.16	
Industry Sector	278.65		278.49	
Services Sector	260.53		256.21	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES				
U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.2615/20	1.6060/70	1.8080/90	1.4855/65
Canadian dollar	1.6060/70	1.8080/90	1.4855/65	33.0509
Deutsche marks	1.4855/65	33.0509	5.4440/50	1590/1592
Dutch guilders	5.4440/50	1590/1592	114.15/20	7.6420/520
Swiss francs	114.15/20	7.6420/520	6.8450/550	6.1700/800
French francs	7.6420/520	6.8450/550	51.5200/10	One sterling
Italian lire	6.1700/800	51.5200/10	336.75/337.25	One ounce of gold
Japanese yen	51.5200/10	336.75/337.25		
Swedish crowns	336.75/337.25			
Norwegian crowns				
Danish crowns				

Power crisis expected to force up food prices in Philippines

MANILA (AP) — Filipinos may soon be paying more for food because the country's electricity crisis has made it difficult for processors to keep up with demand, an energy official says.

Raul Concepcion, chairman of a joint government-private sector energy task force, made the forecast after President Fidel Ramos signed legislation granting him emergency powers to cope with the crisis.

The electricity shortage, a legacy of the administration of former president Corason Aquino, has brought daily power cuts of up to 10 hours in Manila and other major cities.

Mr. Concepcion said it would be impossible to maintain current food prices because of the worsening power situation. He said food stocks spoil because of lack of refrigeration and that processors cannot run plants at

full capacity because of a lack of electricity.

Filipinos also will be paying more for electricity. On Tuesday, the energy regulatory board approved a 5.57-centavo (about one-fourth of one U.S. cent) per kilowatt-hour increase in power rates.

The increase would help the state-owned National Power Corp. raise funds to build more power plants.

Presidential spokeswoman Annabelle Abaya said the government would seek further increases to make up for the difference between the rate granted and a planned 18-centavo (half a cent) increase this year.

"The month of March was very bad," Mr. Concepcion said. "We did not expect it to be that way. We believe industry should be placed in a position to cope with blackouts and avert the possibility of price increase."

But Mr. Concepcion admitted there was little that could be done in view of the shortage. Labour Secretary Nieves Confesor estimates that 71,000 Filipinos have lost their jobs in the Manila area.

Airbus sees good market in M.E. over 20 years

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Airbus Industrie forecast here Tuesday that airlines in the Middle East will acquire 550 planes over the next 20 years, of which it hoped to capture a good slice.

The region's "share of world traffic is much higher than any other region, which means that people here are traveling more than the people in other regions," Didier Lenormand, marketing planning manager of the company, told the press in Bahrain as part of a promotion tour.

"The Middle East share is about five per cent of the market for the total fleet in the coming 20 years... about 550," he said.

Airbus Industrie, based in Toulouse, France, is owned by Aerospatiale of France, British Aerospace, Deutsche Aerospace, Airbus of Germany and Casa of Spain.

"We've done quite well in the Middle East, and of course we are continuing to try to market aircraft in the Middle East," said David Velupillai, manager of press relations of the company. Regional airlines currently

operate a total of about 300 planes, of which more than a third were acquired from Airbus Industrie.

"All together we've sold 127 aircraft to 13 airlines within the Middle East. We actually started in the region with Iran Air in 1987 and since then we've added many more carriers," said Mr. Velupillai. Egyptair followed in 1980, both countries with A300s.

Since its inception in 1985, Dubai's Emirates Airline has used Airbus aircraft for its fleet. Gulf Air, Middle East Airlines and Shorouk Air, which is a joint venture between Egyptair and Kuwait Airways, became new Airbus operators in 1992.

"Over the last three years, we have won more than half of all the orders placed within the Middle East, and that includes of course orders for Gulf Air for the A320 and the A340," said Mr. Velupillai.

Gulf Air and Kuwait Airways were the first to order the new long-haul A340s, the world's longest range airliner. The A340 was first flown by Lufthansa and Air France in March.

Gulf Air is due to receive six of them by 1994, while four are to be delivered in 1995 to Kuwait Airways.

Saudi Arabia, which has 11 A300-600s, has yet to modernise its fleet, said Mr. Velupillai. "They have ordered aircraft today, they need to buy some new aircraft for tomorrow. I don't know if they will be our aircraft or not, but we are certainly hoping and trying that they will be our aircraft," he said.

The manager said his company signed a sales contract with Iraq for five A310s a few months before its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, but that has been suspended following the conflict, due to the U.N. embargo on Iraq.

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Saj.N. calls for truce between scKarabakh Armenians, Azeris

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vi

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) The Security Council has met to express alarm over battles between Armenian and Azeri forces in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region and demand a ceasefire and military withdrawal.

Defence for five years, the Nagorno-Karabakh region, an Armenian enclave within Azerbaijan, has been a flashpoint for an undeclared war between the two former Soviet republics.

Subsequent to the conflict threats in 1992, as Turkey has dropped its longstanding neutrality and sided diplomatically with Muslim Azerbaijan against Armenia.

Top draft statement that all 15 Viceroy members intended to unanimously said the body and expresses its serious concern at the reported escalation of hostile actions.

The Council demands an immediate cessation of all such hostilities, which are a threat to the peace and security of the region, and a withdrawal from areas occupied through military action, the draft statement said.

The Council did not intend to take up a resolution proposed by Azerbaijan that would have it say that it "condemns the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan," but "regrets" a more evenhanded position.

just in the Karabakh Armenians have threatened nearly 1,000 square miles of Azerbaijani territory in the latest offensive, which had begun as spring came to the Caucasus Mountains.

Instead, the Council's draft statement refrains from identifying either side as an aggressor, but calls on both to agree to a ceasefire, adoption of a timetable for deployment of European peace monitors, and agreement to convene a peace conference.

The military commander of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, has offered his services as a mediator.

The draft also "calls for unimpeded access to international humanitarian relief efforts in all areas affected by the conflict in order to alleviate the sufferings of the civilian population in those areas."

Azerbaijan appealed to Turkey Wednesday for help in stopping Armenian military advances. Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said.

Mr. Demirel, speaking to the Anatolian News Agency, said the message from Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey reflected an emergency situation.

"We are asking you (Turkey) to use all means at your disposal and your authority to stop the (Armenian) attacks," Mr. Elchibey said in his message, Anatolian reported.

But asked by the news agency if Turkey, a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, would provide military aid to Baku, Mr. Demirel said: "Nothing would be solved if we gave military aid to Azerbaijan. Others would then help Armenia."

On Monday, Turkish President Turgut Ozal told journalists that Turkey, whose people are ethnically linked to the Azeris, was "doing everything possible" to put pressure on Armenia.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry Wednesday branded Armenia as the aggressor and said Turkey would review "all options."

Armenians fighting with Azerbaijan since 1988 over Nagorno-Karabakh, have effective control of the autonomous region since last year.

Ankara Monday closed its airspace to all flights to and from Armenia, including relief shipments, in response to the escalation in Armenian attacks.

Turkish Armed Forces Chief General Dogan Gureş was quoted in Turkish newspapers as saying Ankara had boosted its units on the eastern Armenian border after considering "all alternatives" and planes were patrolling the frontier.

"Armenia is expanding. We are concerned about this. This is certainly a threat," Gen. Gureş said.

In Damascus, Armenia's foreign minister, Vahan Papasian, Tuesday blamed renewed fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh on terrorism practiced by Azerbaijanis against the population of the disputed region.

Mr. Papasian, on a three-day visit to Syria, to inaugurate an Armenian embassy and meet with Syrian officials, denied his country had "any territorial ambitions in Azerbaijan."

He told a news conference Armenia would back whatever settlement the Azerbaijani government and the Armenian inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh reach.

Asked about the Turkish government's actions, Mr. Papasian said: "Turkey believes that the current dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh is an internal issue without taking into consideration that Azerbaijan is an independent republic that should adopt its political path and not be subservient to Turkey."

He also said that Armenia's regular army has never participated in any attacks against Azerbaijan, saying military operations were mounted by "the Defence Forces of Karabakh."

He said: "Any solution that satisfies Karabakh's government will be acceptable to the Armenian government."

But, he added, "the Azerbaijan government does not seek a peaceful solution. It rather uses terrorism against Karabakh as well as Armenia."

Commenting on Turkey's flight ban, Mr. Papasian said: "This is not new. The Turkish airspace has not always been open to all flights coming to Armenia."

He said Ankara had rejected Armenia's offer to "put aside the bloody past between Turkey and the Armenians and establish diplomatic ties. The minister was referring to the massacre of over one million Armenians by Turkey during World War I."



A Serbian soldier removes a road block to clear the way for a Belgian U.N. convoy returning from Muslim-held town of Srebrenica without refugees (AFP photo)

Srebrenica fighting breaches truce

SARAJEVO (R) — Shooting and shelling broke out again around the besieged Muslim town of Srebrenica Wednesday in breach of a ceasefire recently extended by Bosnia's three warring factions, a U.N. officer said.

U.S. Captain Bill Karakatin of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said the fighting was concentrated to the south of Srebrenica but some artillery shells also landed in the town.

"There is no ceasefire in Srebrenica, although the confrontation lines appear stable in the past few days," Capt. Karakatin said.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said three people were killed and 11 wounded in shelling of Srebrenica Tuesday, when the town came under fire from mortars, tanks and artillery.

Capt. Karakatin said the ceasefire, whose extension was agreed by Bosnia's Serb, Muslim and Croat military chiefs at a meeting at Sarajevo Airport Tuesday, appeared to be generally holding elsewhere in Bosnia despite some violations.

"This ceasefire is the most fragile thing around but except for Srebrenica violations do not seem related to any (offensive)," Capt. Karakatin said.

The Bosnian Serb army accused its Muslim and Croat rivals of 18 violations Tuesday, adding

eight Serb soldiers had been killed and 10 wounded, the Bosnian Serb News Agency said.

In Sarajevo, one person was killed by a sniper Wednesday, the city's radio station reported.

On Tuesday, small arm fire struck a U.N. relief aircraft on the airport runway but there were no injuries and the plane returned as scheduled to the Croatian capital Zagreb.

A U.N. officer said four civilians had been killed and seven wounded by snipers while trying to leave Sarajevo by crossing the airport by night.

Eighteen wounded people, accompanied by 10 family members, were airlifted out of the besieged city Wednesday.

Sarajevo police took advantage of the relative calm to cordon off a large area in what appeared to be a search operation against organised crime, according to witnesses.

The U.N. was meanwhile trying to restart its operation to evacuate Muslims from Srebrenica which was blocked by local officials Tuesday, despite an order from Bosnia's Muslim President, Alija Izetbegovic, that it should be permitted.

A spokeswoman for the Belgrade office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said talks were under way with the Muslims and it was hoped to send

in another convoy Thursday.

Srebrenica, whose population has been swollen to 40,000 by refugees from other Muslim settlements overrun by Serb forces, is one of the last Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia and its defenders fear it might fall if too many people leave.

The U.N. has denied that evacuating people from Srebrenica is helping to carry out the Serbs' policy of ethnic cleansing, or the forcible creation of ethnically "pure" enclaves.

The U.N. has already evacuated about 5,000 people, although 13 people died in a stampede last month to get on U.N. trucks taking them to the Muslim city of Tuzla.

The Serb-held Krajina region of Croatia, which borders Bosnia, was reported quiet overnight. Croatia and rebel Serbs met in Geneva Tuesday to sign an agreement to end fighting in the disputed enclave.

Slobodan Jarcovic, foreign minister of the self-styled Serbian Republic of Krajina, said the accord could take effect only if Serb deputies approve it at a session Saturday.

At the United Nations, diplomats said Washington wanted to outlaw all shipping in Yugoslavia's 12-mile territorial waters as part of a sanctions-tightening resolution being considered by the Security Council.

Russia plays down Tomsk nuclear leak

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian nuclear Energy Ministry said Wednesday that Tuesday's radioactive leak in Siberia had produced never a minor contamination and no one had suffered dangerous exposure.

I will not call it a catastrophe. I know it is not a catastrophe," spokesman Georgy Ushakov told a news conference in Moscow. "It is practically an accident that without danger, but an accident all the same."

Mr. Ushakov said preliminary estimates showed the incident at 3-7 Tomsk-7 chemical plant rated closely three on the seven-point scale nuclear emergencies.

Chimpanzees by the release of great radioactivity without serious irradiation of personnel," another day, spokesman Sergei Yermakov, said of the conference.

Costa, Mr. Kurov said two small areas of contamination had been spotted 10 kilometres from the plant where radiation levels were ten times background levels. But three residential areas had been Tuesday and there were no plans to evacuate anyone.

He also dismissed comparisons with the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, which sent a cloud of radiation across Europe.

"About 80 million curies of radioactivity were released at Chernobyl," he said. "Here we do not have even a single curie. So it is 80 million times less."

Commonwealth Television said Russian Air Defence units had detected a radioactive cloud moving through Siberia Wednesday from the scene of Tuesday's nuclear accident.

The cloud was moving at 36 kph (22 mph) at a height of three kilometres in the direction of the Yenisei, one of the great rivers of Siberia which flows from Mongolia to the Arctic.

Civil Defence units in the Siberian industrial centre of Kemerovo were put on alert after Tuesday's radiation leak in Tomsk, a regional news agency said Wednesday.

The Siberian Daily News Agency quoted Kemerovo's Civil Defence Chief Vasily Romanov as saying no rise in radioactivity

had been recorded there. But his staff had been put on full alert nonetheless.

Kemerovo is about 150 kilometres south of Tomsk. In Novosibirsk, 200 kilometres to the southwest, radiation monitoring was increased, ITAR-TASS News Agency said.

A senior official in Tomsk said he had sent all his staff home and advised them to drink alcohol — widely believed in Russia to counter radiation.

The official, who preferred to remain anonymous, said the city first heard of the accident from Moscow and not from the plant itself.

"The situation is bad. They say now that 1,000 hectares (2,500 acres) have been contaminated, but the snow is melting, everything is flowing. People here feel like closing their eyes and running away," he said.

"They (the authorities) didn't even warn people don't walk around bare-headed, take two drops of iodine or at least clean your shoes when you come from the street."

Cambodia campaign begins as U.N. chief arrives

PHNOM PENH (R) — Campaigning for Cambodia's first multi-party poll in three decades began Wednesday but radical Khmer Rouge guerrillas refused to rule out violent opposition to the U.N.-sponsored election.

To underline the U.N.'s hopes for the election, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived in Phnom Penh for a two-day visit, to be greeted by Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk and U.N. officials.

Under the shade of a huge umbrella normally reserved for royalty, Dr. Ghali inspected an honour guard drawn up from six nationalities contributing to the 22,000-strong peacekeeping mission.

He briefly greeted a line-up of foreign diplomats and senior Cambodian political figures including the nominal head of the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction, Khieu Samphan, who was driven away without speaking to reporters.

Some of the 20 parties contesting the May 23-27 election had already started posting up slogans, allowed from Wednesday along with rallies and television and radio advertisements.

The election will be the culmination of a process that began in Paris in October 1991 when the country's four main warring factions agreed to end the fighting that has torn apart the country and sign a U.N.-brokered peace agreement.

The chief of the electoral component of the U.N. peacekeeping force, Reginald Austin, called the start of the campaign "another historic step in the attempt to bring democracy to the people of Cambodia."

But the radical Khmer Rouge guerrillas, one of the signatories to the pact, Wednesday condemned the elections as "a ploy to ensure the continued Vietnamese domination of the country and refused to rule out violence during the campaign."

Greece, Macedonia to negotiate on name

ATHENS (R) — Greece and Macedonia have agreed to open negotiations to find a compromise over the former Yugoslav republic's name, which has been at the centre of a month-old dispute.

Greek Foreign Minister Mihailis Papasian said a news conference talks were expected to open next week in New York

under the auspices of international peace negotiators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen and would be concluded within two months.

Mr. Papasian said he made his comments after officials at the United Nations in New York said the U.S. Security Council could approve Macedonia's application for membership under a temporary name, perhaps as early as Wednesday.

Greece has blocked widespread international recognition of the landlocked republic of some two million Slavs and Albanians since it declared its independence from Yugoslavia in late 1991.

Athens argued the name Macedonia, implied territorial claims against Greece's own northern Macedonia province, where some 2.5 million Greeks live.

Ukraine playing 'games' with nuclear arms

MOSCOW (AP) — Ukraine heavily denied Russian accusations that it was trying to become a nuclear power and said it would not play "political games" with nuclear arms inherited from the Soviet Union.

International experts see little chance of a nuclear confrontation between the countries. But they are watching the rhetorical battle between Ukraine and Russia with growing concern.

An issue of nearly 2,000 warheads that remained in Ukraine after the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union, which stored its nuclear weapons in four republics, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan agreed last year to transfer them to Russia or destroy them, but Ukraine has been peddling on that agreement.

If Ukraine took full control of its weapons, it would instantly become the third biggest nuclear power in the world, behind the United States and Russia.

The weapons now are maintained by Russian soldiers, under unified command of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and are tied into an electronic network that the Soviets used to control all weapons from Moscow.

On Monday, Russia accused Ukraine of violating agreements to get rid of its weapons and to "widen the circle of nuclear powers."

Ukraine's council of ministers responded Tuesday by reaffirming its intention to become a non-nuclear state and calling Russia's accusation "a perversion of the Ukrainian position."

In its written statement, the cabinet also renewed an invitation for international experts to view the safe storage and handling of the weapons.

Ukraine is against this entire serious matter becoming a subject of political games," the statement said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Andreotti deserted by his party
ROME (R) — Former Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti Wednesday faced further isolation in his Christian Democrat (DC) Party after a parliamentary committee branded his right-hand man in Sicily a mafia go-between. Mr. Andreotti had always defended former Palermo Mayor Salvo Lima against frequent accusations of mafia ties. Now a parliamentary committee of inquiry into the mafia has — with the DC's votes — approved a report openly accusing Mr. Lima of being an important *cosca* (mafia) contact. "Lima's links with the *cosca* were certain and he was the leader in Sicily of the DC faction headed by Mr. Andreotti," said the committee in a resolution supported by nearly all parties, including the Christian Democrats. La Repubblica newspaper called the condemnation "historic" and added: "Andreotti comes out of this as a man standing very much alone." Corriere Della Sera paper added: "This DC has isolated Andreotti."

4th Pakistan minister quits
ISLAMABAD (R) — Another Pakistani minister has resigned over what he said was government failure to combat terrorism, fuelling a crisis that threatens to topple the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. "Nothing has been done about the presence of terrorists on Pakistani soil," Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, minister of state for economic affairs, told a news conference called to announce his resignation. Mr. Ali, the fourth minister to step down in 10 days, cited serious differences with the government over its policy on Afghanistan, on ties with states of the former Soviet Union and on economic policy, particularly fiscal discipline. He said he was seriously concerned about a mounting budget deficit, expected to hit at least 7.4 per cent in the 1992-93 financial year compared with a target of 5.0 per cent. "Our finances are in a total mess," he said. "There is absolutely no financial discipline." The resignation of Mr. Ali, flanked at his news conference by 11 members of parliament, would further destabilise Mr. Sharif's fragile coalition government, which is locked in a bitter feud with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

2 die as turbulence hits Chinese jet

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (R) — Two people aboard a Chinese jetliner en route to Los Angeles were killed and more than 150 injured Tuesday when heavy turbulence rocked the aircraft, aviation officials said. The China Eastern Airlines flight, with dozens of the injured aboard, was forced to make an emergency landing at a U.S. Air Force base on a remote western Alaskan island 2,500 kilometres west of Anchorage. The injured were then airlifted to Anchorage by U.S. Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard aircraft. Emergency workers said there had been numerous serious injuries and speculated that they may have been caused by luggage or other objects flying loose inside the cabin after the aircraft encountered "substantial" turbulence.

Truce holds in Abkhazia during talks

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — A ceasefire in Georgia's rebel province of Abkhazia held overnight into Wednesday while top-level talks took place between Georgia and Russia, local journalists said. Journalists in the regional capital of Sukhumi said military action fell off sharply Tuesday night in the Black Sea province after Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev appealed to Abkhaz separatist leaders to enforce the truce.

U.S. cities brace nervously for King verdict

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — With the trial of four policemen in the beating of a black motorist nearing an end, U.S. cities are nervously making plans to prevent any new outbreak of the mayhem that swept urban areas last year.

In Los Angeles, the jury in the case will soon be asked for a verdict on the white police officers accused of violating Rodney King's civil rights when they arrested him in 1991.

But it is not only Los Angeles, devastated by rioting after the officers' acquittal last April 29, that is anxiously awaiting the outcome of the new trial.

Cities as far apart as San Francisco, Las Vegas, Seattle and Atlanta — all hit by riots, looting or vandalism after last year's verdict — are also jockeying in place plans to try to counter any violence which might break out after this trial.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton's housing secretary

underscored the concern, saying dozens of U.S. cities were plagued by racism and poverty and could again explode in riots.

"Like piles of dry wood with red hot coals underneath, scores of American cities can ignite," said Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros.

While many officials fear violence if the Los Angeles officers are again acquitted, they say a conviction could also lead to street demonstrations or celebrations.

Police departments across the country are readying their equipment and holding training exercises, city officials are building bridges with minority communities and merchants are planning how to protect their stores from looters.

Asked at a news conference Tuesday how many law enforcement agencies had been in touch with his department over the King trial, Los Angeles Police Chief Willie Williams said:

"Probably as many as there are in this country."

"I get calls every day from agencies around this country that say we'd like to know when the verdict is about to come in," he said.

San Francisco, one of the cities outside Los Angeles worst hit by riots last year, is banking on a two-pronged approach to dealing with the verdict. It consists of working with communities to try to defuse tensions while having emergency services well-prepared for any trouble.

Police department spokesman Dave Ambrose said when the verdict is handed down San Francisco officers will be put on 12-hour shifts, assigned to squads of seven officers and one sergeant and leave will be cancelled.

A state of emergency was declared in San Francisco last year as rioters looted downtown stores, causing 1.5 million in damage. More than 1,100 people were arrested.

In the southern city of Atlanta, Georgia, where more than 300 people were arrested and at least 21 injured in riots which followed last year's verdict, a spokeswoman for the police department said the force was "prepared to respond as we always do...if anything happens" when this trial ends.

In the Pacific northeast, civic leaders in Seattle, Washington, said they planned a variety of activities for teenagers to divert them from violence on the week the King verdict comes down.

After last year's verdict, Seattle police arrested more than 40 suspects during several hours of random violence in central Seattle, while the fire department responded to 23 arson fires in vehicles and buildings.

In New York, where there was sporadic violence after last year's verdict, the police department said it would not wait until the verdict came in "to do the work."

Column

Dogs can help epileptics, survey finds

LONDON (R) — Dogs could be life-savers for people with epilepsy, according to a survey by a British veterinarian. Andrew Edney said in the Veterinary Record magazine that dogs appeared to know when owners were about to have a seizure and some even fetched help. His survey, based on personal accounts from 37 dog owners who suffer from epilepsy, said all the dogs were untrained, yet all responded to seizures. "They alerted others in the vicinity or went away to seek help," said Dr. Edney. Dogs most likely to respond were collies or other types originally bred to work. "There is an opportunity to encourage the trait present in some dogs and possibly equip an epileptic person with an animal capable of helping them cope with their lives," Dr. Edney said.

Researchers hope clams can predict earthquakes

TOKYO (AP) — First it was catfish. Now Japanese researchers are eyeing clams to see if they can be used to predict earthquakes. A team of scientists at Japan's Marine Science and Technology Centre is watching groups of clams on the ocean floor in earthquake-prone areas to determine whether changes in their numbers or behaviour are related to quake activity. "It's not that easy to predict earthquakes, but we hope to contribute by finding some kind of connection," said Jun Hashimoto, a researcher at the government-funded centre. The species of white clams, called *vesicomyids*, thrives in areas of underwater volcanic activity because of a symbiotic relationship with bacteria that live on their gills and derive energy from volcanic materials such as hydrogen sulfide. Mr. Hashimoto said. He and 14 other researchers have begun a long-term observation of the clams in Sagami Bay near Tokyo, where large groups of the mollusks were observed at the time of a series of earthquakes in 1989 that preceded an underwater volcanic eruption. The project will cost between 70 million and 100 million yen (\$600,000 and \$880,000) a year, Mr. Hashimoto said. And if clams aren't the answer, there are at least two other candidates for quake predictors — sardines and tube worms — that also seem to increase their numbers at the time of volcanic activity, Mr. Hashimoto said.

Shall I hum it for you, M'lud?

LONDON (AP) — A detective hummed his evidence in the trial of a pubkeeper accused of keeping a disorderly house. Detective Constable Andrew Ormiston was describing how he and other officers in plain clothes watched strippers performing in the Flying Scotsman pub in North London. Asked to explain what traditional stripper music was, Mr. Ormiston said: "Shall I hum it for you?" The performance was awarded with chuckles from the jury at the Old Bailey criminal court, and a question from the judge. "That's sometimes called bump and grind music isn't it?" asked the judge. Mr. Recorder David Cocks. The judge quickly added: "I have only heard about it."

Smack in the wallet for spanking employer

BRISBANE (R) — An Australian woman whose male employer pulled down her underpants and spanked her has been awarded Australian \$11,000 (\$7,755) in damages. The 47-year-old woman, identified only as "B", was a cleaner in a Brisbane supermarket in 1989 when her boss told her to kneel and clean under a piece of cooking equipment. When she refused the man said she was a "naughty girl and needed (her) bare bum smacked", a human rights commissioner said in his judgement. The man then pushed her to the ground, pulled down her clothes and spanked her. He later chased her around the tearoom.

Labour of love?

LUXEMBOURG (R) — British Employment Minister Gillian Shephard found herself inadvertently promoting the opposition Labour Party to her European Community (EC) colleagues. In a television speech, she urged EC social affairs minister in Luxembourg to promote the Labour Party. Grinning broadly, she quickly corrected any impression that she was changing her party allegiance, pointing out that she meant to say "Labour policy."